Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-078 *24 April 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Congratulates Libya on UN Resolution

NC2004210595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has congratulated Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, on the Security Council resolution allowing the Libyan pilgrims to travel by air to the holy lands to perform the pilgrimage.

The Arab League secretary general affirmed in a message he sent to al-Qadhdhafi today delivered by Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, that this resolution received large-scale Arab and Islamic support.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also affirmed the complete solidarity of the Arab countries with Libya and its support for efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the high-pressure measures and threats the Libyan people are being subjected to. He expressed his belief that these efforts will eventually lead to lifting the sanctions imposed on Libya.

Arab League Delegate Denounces Resolution 986

JN2004204695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has said that the passage of Resolution 986 is the outcome of a U.S. act of deception meant to hoodwink the world public. It is an attempt on the part of the United States to rid itself of increasing pressures inside and outside the UN Security Council pushing for a revocation of the unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq, Dr. Najm added.

In statements to correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies here today, the Iraqi delegate to the Arab League went on to say that the U.S. efforts to ensure the passage of the aforesaid resolution sought to obstruct the endeavors to ensure the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the embargo clamped on Iraqi oil sales once Iraq honors its international commitments.

Dr. Najm indicated that the provisions enshrined in the suspicious resolution rob Iraq of its right to use its resources to meet the requirements of its people; compromise Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and national unity; indefinitely delay a revocation of the sanctions; and aim to create alternatives to preclude the implementation of the UNSC's commitments toward Iraq.

Dr. Najm said that the mechanisms and complications enshrined in the resolution with regard to its implementation constitute a serious precedent, given the fact that they introduce economic and political restrictions and conditions that cannot be accepted by anyone. These conditions and restrictions, Dr. Najm maintained, constitute a flagrant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs, jeopardize its safety and unity, and rob the Iraqi people of their inalienable right to benefit from their national wealth.

The Iraqi delegate to the Arab League added: Resolution 986, whose draft reflected hatred and hostility toward the people of Iraq, renders the Sanctions Committee the party responsible for endorsing or rejecting requests. All this is meant to be accomplished in accordance with a string of unfair complications. He noted that Iraq would end up with half the revenues that could be made by selling limited quantities of oil. Most of the proceeds from the oil sales would go to the United Nations' coffers, he maintained.

Dr. Najm noted that the aim of this evil resolution is to consecrate the abnormal state of affairs in northern Iraq and indefinitely mortgage and steal Iraq's national wealth and resources. He added that the people of Iraq reject these measures, because they reflect hostility and hatred.

Islamic Affairs

U.S. Policy 'Reconsideration' Said Needed After Blast

MM2104151995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Terrorism That Requires American Awakening"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We cannot possibly hesitate for one moment to express sympathy with the victims of the Oklahoma explosion and to express our warmest condolences to their families. What happened was terrorism, the worst kind of terrorism and intimidation, but what is even worse than that is the insistence on accusing the Arabs and Muslims from the first moments of the tragedy, even before the investigators embarked on their task of identifying the causes and the culprits.

It is irresponsible to say that three people of Middle Eastern appearance carried out the crime and to give analysts and experts a free hand to plant that charge on the Arabs and Muslims. There is a lot of racism in that claim. Half the population of the globe have dark skin and dark hair and answer to the same description. So why pick on the Arabs and Muslims to the exclusion of others?

When there was an explosion in the La Belle nightclub in East Berlin, the Americans passed judgment in advance maintaining that Libya was behind it, and giant U.S. bombers attacked peaceful Tripoli at night killing children and civilians. It transpired later that Libya was innocent but the U.S Administration did not apologize and did not compensate the victims. The same thing

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happened when a car bomb targeted the Israeli Embassy in London. Accusing fingers were pointed at the Islamists, Lebanon's Hizballah, and Iran. Now, the British authorities are trying hard to substantiate charges against a group of Arab youths who have nothing to do with fundamentalism, Iran, or Hizballah.

The repeated attempts to aim the charge of terrorism at the Arabs and Muslims intensify hostility between East and West and provide some extremists with a justification for mounting terrorist operations. The U.S. unfair policy in the Arab region encourages them to do that.

The United States now unreservedly supports Israeli intransigence which is impeding the peace process, insists on starving 20 million Arabs in Iraq, imposes an air blockade on Libya, puts Sudan, Syria, and five other Arab and Islamic states on the terrorism list, keeps quiet about the slaughter of Chechens and Bosnians, interferes in Somalia to make the situation worse, and devalues its official currency to make oil prices cheaper than water.

We condemn the Oklahoma operation and all those behind it, and we acknowledge the right of American justice to vindicate the innocent victims but at the same time we call on the United States to stop its official psychological and economic terrorism against us, the sons of this afflicted nation, that terrorism which takes numerous forms ranging from support for dictatorial, corrupt, repressive, and backward regimes to the imposition of a rejected Israeli peace plan which is leading the region to a certain catastrophe.

The occurrence of more than one explosion in more than one spot in world capitals at suspect times is the best evidence of the failure of the new world order which the United States is trying to impose these days, exploiting its status as the sole superpower. That is because it is a world order based on alignment with injustice, hegemony over the United Nations, and use of that organization as a cover.

We hope that the arrival of terrorism in its ugliest form in the heartland of the United States will lead to an awakening of the "American conscience" that would lead to a change of many aspects of the erroneous policies now pursued in the third world, especially in our Arab region.

When NATO's secretary general declares that Islamic fundamentalism is the substitute for communism as the enemy of Western civilization, he should be confronted fiercely because that is the best ammunition for fundamentalism and the worst racist provocation against Mediterranean neighbors who had long suffered from Western imperialism and now look for some formula for cooperation and not for grounds for confrontation. How could fundamentalism be the substitute for communism when it does not have 135,000 nuclear warheads, intercontinental missiles, and all instruments of star wars? Is there a more naive oversimplification? The Oklahoma explosion, regardless of the results of the investigations carried out to unravel its mystery, should be a prelude to a reconsideration of U.S. and Western grudgeful policies against the Arabs and Muslims.

Sudanese Role in Islamic Conference Reported

JN2004151495 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Apr 95 pp 26-29

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference [PAIC], which groups the world's fundamentalists and extremists, has convened in Khartoum for the third time in four years in the midst of stringent security measures by the Islamic revolution guards in Sudan and under the close scrutiny of Western security and intelligence bodies.

The conference was attended by more than 300 hardline fundamentalists from more than 80 Arab and foreign countries who came to Khartoum to coordinate their stands and formulate their strategy for the forthcoming stage. [passage omitted]

'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudanese foreign minister and the second in command in the Islamic Front, has denied his government had anything to with the conference. He said that the government dealt with the conference as it does with all international organizations and embassies accredited to Sudan.

Sudanese President' Umar al-Bashir also confirmed this denial on Thursday morning, 31 April, the day the first session of the conference began. He told the press that his government has nothing to do with this Islamic gathering and that its only obligation is to play host to it.

But those who closely monitor Sudanese affairs have a different opinion. They see that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government has largely contributed to the preparation of the conference in terms of offering accommodations, means of transport, and placing the official Sudanese media in the service of the conference. Observers say that Sudanese radio and television have been on a state of alert for one month before the conference to render it a success and highlight its objectives. The official Sudanese press like AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH and AL-INQADH AL-WATANI conducted many interviews with world Islamic leaders who are known for favoring extremism and fundamentalism. [passage omitted]

Within the context of the secret deals, Sudanese opposition sources say that an agreement was signed between Hasan al-Turabi and Chechen parties which arrived in Khartoum one day after the beginning of the conference and which did not participate in the it open sessions. These parties took up residence near the Engineering Corps in Omdurman. The agreement that was signed stipulates that Sudan will import weapons from Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, in exchange for immediate payment in dollars to extremist Ukrainian organizations. A Sudanese Antonov plane with on-board technicians and members from al-Turabi's front landed in the semi-military Gestomel [name as published] Airport 50 km

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from Kiev on 2 April to transport the weapons from the airport after paying bribe money to the officials in charge of security and customs at the airport by an Iraqi intelligence officer who is experienced in concluding secret deals between the former Soviet Union and the Palestinian opposition factions which are hostile to President 'Arafat's policies. The sources estimated the cargo of this plane at 20 tonnes of weapons and ammunitions worth $30 million. The sources said that the Sudanese plane made three trips to transport the weapons agreed upon.

Opposition sources believe that al-Turabi has exploited the conference and the decision by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir to stop the war in the south for two months in order to get weapons and ammunition and to enable the regular forces and the popular defense militia loyal to him to prepare his forces in the south for the planned summer assault against seven axes. The front's government is trying to reach the city of Nimule 17 km from Achwa.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned from informed sources in Khartoum that on the sidelines of the conference, al-Turabi and the Iranian delegation agreed that Iran would supply Sudan with Iranian weapons, including three modern minesweepers to operate on the Sudanese coasts. Security organs had obtained information that the military opposition led by Colonel 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid is trying to plant mines in Port Sudan with the help of some African countries that are at odds with Sudan. The Sudanese military command established a permanent base for the Sudanese Air Force in Port Sudan last January. Two Chinese-made warplanes and two Russian-made helicopters are currently stationed there to confront any attempt by the military opposition to land forces on the beach.

The most important issue al-Turabi has discussed with the leaders of the extremist organizations is the opening of PAIC headquarters in several Arab and foreign capitals. But he faced a problem when a proposal to open a PAIC headquarters in Cairo was rejected by the members of the Egyptian delegation that included leaders of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as retired General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili. Al-Turabi then decided to discuss the issue at a closed meeting of the members of the PAIC General Secretariat. The opposition, however, leaked information that the session agreed to establish the following bureaus:

The Yemen bureau, which will be in charge of keeping track of extremist groups in the Gulf states. It will also coordinate among these states and work in accordance with the PAIC's goals.

The Khartoum bureau, which will be in charge of contacting extremist movements in Egypt, Libya, Chad, Uganda, Kenya, and Cameroon. The bureau will be provided with high-tech telecommunications system because the bureau will supervise the other bureaus in the various capitals.

The Somalia bureau, which is in charge of keeping track of extremist opposition groups in Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Eritrea. It will also coordinate efforts to support fundamentalist jihad in the Horn of Africa.

The Italy bureau, which will take the form of an import-export company and will contact extremist movements in the Arab Maghreb countries, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, as well as in Mauritania.

The Pakistan bureau, which will be in charge of contacting fundamentalist movements and organizations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Burma, and the Philippines.

The Iran bureau, which will be in charge of coordination in Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Chechnya and with fundamentalist movements in other countries that have become independent from the former Soviet Union.

The Britain bureau, which will take the form of a media institution and will be active in the fields of press, publication, and academic research as a cover for the main activity; namely, the holding of contacts with fundamentalist groups who have fled to various European capitals.

The New York bureau, specifically in the Brooklyn district, where there is a large Islamic minority and an extremist leadership currently active in the field of humanitarian relief aid, is to hold contacts with the other extremist leaders in the United States and Canada.

These bureaus are financed by two major sources: A local source that relies on the resources of the extremist groups in the state where there is a PAIC bureau, and direct aid from the central PAIC headquarters in Khartoum. The sources said that the Iranian Construction Jihad Ministry has extended $120 million to al-Turabi's front to finance the bureaus which will be established in a number of Arab and foreign capitals.

Delegations from 80 states participated in the conference. Some of the heads of these delegations played an effective role in holding collective and bilateral meetings. The most prominent of these were:

1. Shaykh ['Abd-al-Majid] al-Zandani from Yemen. In a statement to journalists upon arrival in Khartoum, he said that Sudan was ahead of others in declaring Islam and paying the price. He was referring to its isolation and the accusations leveled against it of supporting acts of terrorism and of exporting fundamentalist extremism.

2. Muhammad Nazzal, from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who described the civil war in southern Sudan and the war of liberation in Palestine by saying: "Our jihad is one."

3. 'Adil Husayn, from the Egyptian Labor Party, who addressed the Westerners, saying: "The Muslims have the right to tell you that we have been awakened."

4. Albanian mufti Sabri Kotch [name as transliterated].

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5. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, from the Islamic Jihad, who called for a frank denunciation of peace agreements with Israel.

6. Abdallah Djaballah, from the Algerian Islamic Renaissance Movement, who expressed concern over the internationalization of the Algerian crisis.

7. Anour Haddam, from the Islamic Salvation Front, who called for amending a resolution on Algeria, which calls on the Algerian Government to hold dialogue. He said that this should be replaced by the phrase "the ruling authority in Algeria," considering that it is illegitimate, as he put it.

Delegations from Tajikistan led by Muhammad Sharif Himatzada, Na'im Qasim from Hizballah, and Abdallah Ben Kabran from the Moroccan Renewal and Reform Party [name of party as published] also attended.

8. About 60 people who are wanted by a number of Arab states participated in the talks with the guests at the conference on joint acts of terrorism. Among those were some members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood Group in Syria; three of the extremist Egyptian Jihad Organization, including Mustafa Hamzah who holds a Sudanese passport; and two members of the Shura Council of the banned Tunisian Renaissance Party, who arrived from a European capital with Yemeni passports. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Jihad, Hamas Reportedly Training 'Suicide Bombers'

JN2104132895 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] Western reports have said the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have established training courses to graduate would-be martyrs to carry out suicide operations.

These reports said instructors in these camps had received special training for this purpose in Iran, where camps are established for Palestinian, Lebanese, Sudanese, Egyptian, Afghan, and Algerian suicide bombers. The camps are supervised by Iranian clergymen specialized in psychology and brainwashing. This expertise was conveyed to them from North Korean experts and the clergymen then developed it.

The two main camps for training of suicide units are in Qom and Mashhad, two holy cities, the first is 140 km to the south of Tehran and the second is 1,000 km to the northeast of Tehran.

Islamic Jihad 'Will Not' Suspend Military Operations

MM2104150695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Islamic Jihad Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Operation in Strip Would Be Suspended When Settlements Are Removed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has stressed that his movement will not under any pressure suspend its military operations against "Zionist soldiers, settlers, and settlements" anywhere, including the self- rule areas. Abu-Ahmad 'Isam, the Islamic Jihad's information official, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We would suspend our military action only when Israeli soldiers withdraw from the self-rule areas and settlements are removed from them. Only then would we suspend military action."

The Islamic Jihad's information official denied that there are any political negotiations with the Palestinian National Authority or the PLO as regards suspending operations in the Gaza Strip. He described these reports as "part of the conspiracy against the movement with a view to distorting its principled and fixed positions in its conflict with the Zionist enemy." However, he stressed the existence of contacts aimed at "easing the tension and reducing the possibilities of a clash on the ground." He said that "contacts have never been interrupted, and recent events have made such contacts inside a necessity." He was responding to information attributed to Palestinian opposition sources claiming that the Islamic Jihad Movement has begun talks with the PLO on the suspension of operations in the self-rule areas in Gaza. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Plots 'Preventing Us From Reaching West Bank'

JN2204090195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that nobody will be able to prevent the realization of the Palestinian dream or to destroy the Palestinian infant which has started to breath on the first piece of liberated Palestinian territory. 'Arafat said: The pretexts that are being used by some and which are being exploited by another party will not prevent us from completing our journey until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the mosques and churches of Jerusalem, the capital of our holy Palestinian state, by the firm determination of our people.

President 'Arafat appealed to the forces that are trying to hinder the Declaration of Principle to counsel their national and religious conscience so that the ship will sail with us all to holy Jerusalem.

In a speech at a popular conference of the masses of the eastern region [not further identified], 'Arafat said that international and local plots, closures, siege, and starvation will not prevent us from completing our journey. He said: We need faithful, persevering people to enable us to overcome our many difficulties and to face the big challenges and multilateral plots that are aimed at preventing us from reaching the West Bank and the holy of holies, the capital of our independent state.

Concluding his speech, President 'Arafat emphasized his unshakeable faith in God and in the Palestinian people despite all difficulties and plots.

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PA Said Closer to Reconciliation With Opposition

NC2204151795 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 22 Apr 95

[By Nejla Sammakia]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 22 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority is moving closer to Islamic opposition groups in reconciliation talks aimed at easing tension in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said Saturday [22 April].

Mohammed Zuhdi el-Nashashibi, "minister" of finance, said after the weekly meeting of 'Arafat's self-rule "cabinet" that a breakthrough in the talks was not far off.

"There are signs of readiness for serious and constructive talks," he said.

"We will continue negotiations and the dialogue with Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]," he said.

But the talks with Islamic Jihad were "more promising and we expect an outcome very soon... We also hope to reach results as soon as possible with our brothers in Hamas."

Hamas and Islamic Jihad still put out defiant statements insisting they will continue to fight Israel—embarrassing 'Arafat under Israeli pressure to rein in militants in the autonomous areas.

But the radical Moslem groups are softening their stance and a reconciliation based partly on a halt to militant acts within the autonomous areas may be possible, sources close to the talks said.

"The Islamic Jihad has told the Palestinian Authority [PA] delegation that it could review its military tactics within the autonomous areas if the Authority can guarantee an Israeli end to attacks inside the Palestinian arena," Alaa Saftawi, a Jihad member close to the leadership, told the Jerusalem-based daily AL-QUDS.

The negotiations were launched after a police crackdown following two suicide attacks in Gaza by Islamic Jihad and Hamas that killed seven Israelis and an American on April 9.

More than 200 people were arrested and 'Arafat ordered the disarming of militants as a military court began handing down judgements the day after the bombings, sentencing nine Islamists to up to 25 years in jail.

To prevent internal fighting, mediators pulled the opposition groups and 'Arafat's mainstream PLO faction Fatah together for reconciliation talks last week. About half the detainees have since been freed.

Key opposition demands for a reconciliation include the release of all those still being held and that the court sentences should be revoked.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders also met quietly with Palestinian Authority figures on the sidelines to discuss an end to anti-Israeli attacks—at least in the autonomous areas or by its residents.

"Hamas is beginning to see the time is not ripe for military acts now," said one Palestinian source who asked not to be named.

"I think Hamas is becoming more flexible, and I hope the people in the meetings can convey this to the military wing."

Political leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) deny any connection to the group's military wing, but acknowledge an indirect influence.

"Hamas is one group with shared aims," said Ghazi Hamad, senior editor at the movement's weekly paper AL-WATAN, adding that no one in the group wanted "chaos" and inter-Palestinian clashes but it depended on the self-rule authority.

Hamas has also dropped its call for an end to the autonomy accords struck with Israel, meeting a condition set by 'Arafat for a full reconciliation.

It is the second reconciliation attempt after clashes last November between police and militants in Gaza City left 12 dead. The talks between the Fatah faction and the opposition stalled after the Palestinian Authority ignored an Islamist demand to send representatives.

Cabinet: Dialogue With Hamas, Islamic Jihad 'Positive'

JN2204154695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority [NA] cabinet held its weekly session today at the presidential headquarters in Gaza. The cabinet condemned the current Israeli excavations around the al-Aqsa Mosque. It discussed this issue at length.

The cabinet also discussed the security situation in the NA areas, the results of the meetings held by a Palestinian delegation with Jordanian officials, and the results of the national dialogue with the PLO factions and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and Islamic Jihad Movement. The dialogue has been characterized as positive.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said Jerusalem tops the NA agenda. He rejected any action that threatens Islamic or Christian holy shrines in Jerusalem, stressing the importance of safeguarding Palestinian rights there.

In remarks following the meeting, Dr. Sha'th added that the purpose of the national dialogue is to draw up a national charter to achieve national unity, which is based

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on full commitment to what the Palestinian Authority has signed. He noted that the higher security liaison committee on prisoners and detainees will meet on 7 May in Cairo. Sha'th added: I will visit Nafhah Prison tomorrow to show that we have not forgotten about the issue of prisoners and detainees and to step up the campaign for their release.

For his part, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance, said the cabinet discussed the fees and taxes levied by Israel, which total more than $120 million. Al-Nashashibi said some Arab countries have protested to a conference of Islamic nations to condemn the excavations in Jerusalem. The minister lauded the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which insisted on the need for the Palestinian pilgrims to carry Palestinian passports. This includes the Palestinians inside the Green Line.

Minister of Awqaf Hasan Tahbub said Palestinian pilgrims will be able to leave for Saudi Arabia on schedule.

'Arafat Adviser Expects Statements by Opposition

TA2404102695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Apr 95 pp 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed the hope that the statements being made by leaders of the Islamic groups and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine are serious—as a service to the national interest—and confirm that the PLO signed the Oslo and Cairo accords in the name of the Palestinian people and in its capacity as their legitimate and sole representative.

Abu-Rudaynah added that on the basis of the Declaration of Principles and our commitment to it, we welcome the positions of all the Palestinian parties, be they national organizations or forces. Out of concern for national unity, we invite everyone to participate in building this homeland, which belongs to all.

Abu-Rudaynah said that the Palestinian Authority is keen for the security of the homeland and its sons and will not allow law and order to be violated.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Talks With Opposition

NC2304125095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 24 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations in the Madrid peace conference, has called on the Palestinian groups to unite instead of wasting their efforts in disputes that only benefit Israel.

He said that his recent meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was intended to defuse the crisis between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and reduce tension between them. He added that the situation is now better than it was before.

In an interview with MENA today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The important thing now is to have all the groups agree on their analysis of the current situation so that no one will have misconceived views, everyone will get to learn the facts, and thus they will become determined to rearrange the Palestinian house and find a collective leadership that will join the PA. He added that there is a common denominator between the opposition and the Authority, namely the desire to liberate the Palestinian territories from the Israeli occupation and emphasis on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He stressed that Israel has not changed its policy toward the Palestinian people despite the peace agreements, whose failure is Israel's responsibility. He held Israel responsible for the deteriorating situation and the failure of the Oslo agreement and said that accusing Hamas or Islamic Jihad is only a deception. He noted that Hamas and other Palestinian organizations have a right to resist the occupation, but the problem lies in how to resist and in the timing, adding that what is needed is a united Palestinian action without the use of violence so that we can force Israel to abandon its aggressive intentions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi went on to say: The Israeli proposal of making Gaza alone a Palestinian state is categorically rejected by the PA and the Palestinian and Arab peoples. Even if this proposal was accepted by somebody, it would not be presented on a silver tray; its price would be high. The Palestinian people will not abandon Jerusalem and their right to establish an independent state.

He added: Anyone who thinks that the issue will end with a state in Gaza is quite mistaken. He warned that we are not in a position heralding an imminent easing of the situation, but rather continued suffering.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he does not think that Israel can reach an agreement with the PA on implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles in June or on 1 July, and he accused Israel of procrastination. He added that the Palestinians and Israelis will not solve their problems without the help of others. A third party is needed because Israel will not easily abandon what is has seized. He referred in this respect to the importance of the U.S. role, that of Egypt in its capacity as the Arab world's leaders, and that of the United Nations. He said: The U.S. role is important, but the United States has to be more fair and just if it wants a new world order. We have made all the concessions; there is nothing more to concede.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi praised Egypt's stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and called for a more consolidated Arab stand. He said that some time is needed to remove the suspicions in order to achieve strong Arab solidarity.

He also praised Syria's stand on the negotiations with Israel and ruled out an imminent agreement between

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Syria and Israel through their negotiations, accusing Israel of not wanting to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders.

He said that Palestinian-Arab relations in general have not been established on emotional and psychological bases; the Palestinian side is responsible for this, not the Arab countries. But, he added, the Arab world should not remain a spectator.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he is optimistic that Palestinian-Arab relations will improve, adding that there is much scope for repairing relations and overcoming the past.

DFLP in Gaza Announces End to Operations Against Israel

TA2204162495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the Gaza Strip has announced that following talks with the leaders of the Palestinian Authority [PA], it has decided to desist from actions that might heighten the tension in the autonomous areas, including operations against Israel. This was stated by Ahmad Hamad, the DFLP's spokesman.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds that Yasir 'Arafat conferred with DFLP representatives over the weekend. As a result of this meeting, DFLP detainees are expected to be released from prison and one DFLP office is expected to be reopened. The DFLP members were arrested two months ago, following the terrorist attack on guards driving in an Israeli oil tanker.

Meanwhile, there have been conflicting reports about a change in the Islamic Jihad's position. Shaykh Nafis 'Azzam said Islamic Jihad members have for the first time decided to open a positive dialogue with the PA. They will give the PA a chance to expand its control to the West Bank, although they are certain Israel will not allow such a move. This new position has not been officially confirmed.

PA officials reported progress in the talks with the Islamic Jihad. They added that Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] position will become clear after its leaders meet in Cairo in the near future.

Decision on End to Attacks Awaits Approval From Overseas

TA2204175395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources say that the decision about continuing the terror attacks from the Gaza Strip has been turned over to the leaderships of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine abroad.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that in the negotiations conducted by Yasir 'Arafat's representatives with the leaders of these organizations in Gaza, it was made clear that the local leaderships are prepared to discuss a so-called change in the military tactics—in other words, abstaining from staging terror attacks from within the PA boundaries. No agreement can be reached, however, as long as the headquarters of the organizations abroad do not pass such a decision.

Jihad Spokesman on Condition for Halting 'Armed Action'

NC2304121395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 23 Apr (MENA)—'Ala' al-Saftawi, spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement, has announced that the movement might accept a temporary halt to armed action inside the Palestinian Authority areas on condition that the Israelis not carry out any violent measures in the Palestinian arena, especially in Gaza.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Gaza, al-Saftawi added: We conveyed this position to the Palestinian Authority during our current dialogue with them. He went on: We will not disarm as long as the Israeli occupation remains on our land.

The spokesman said the Movement is not seeking in any way to embarrass or compete with the Palestinian Authority. He noted that the Islamic Jihad Movement's acceptance of a temporary cessation of armed action is a development in its relations with the Palestinian Authority.

Al-Saftawi charged Israel with undermining the Oslo Accord, not even respecting the spirit of peace created by the Oslo atmosphere, and not showing good intentions toward the Palestinian Authority. Rather, Israel is working to embarrass and frustrate the Authority, he added.

He said the operations carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Jihad Movement since the Oslo Accord was signed were not intended to abort the accord or embarrass the Palestinian Authority, but were in response to Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people.

Hamas Rules Out End to Militant Campaign Against Israel

NC2304170395 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, April 23 (AFP)—Hamas hardliners on Sunday [23 April] ruled out an end to their militant campaign against Israel, despite taking part in talks with the Palestinian Authority to ease tension in the Gaza Strip.

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Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Amman, said it had not given up its goals to fight the Israeli occupation and bring down the Israel-PLO autonomy accords which launched Palestinian self-rule.

"The position of Hamas remains unchanged on these questions... and we cannot freeze or renounce our resistance programme while the Israeli occupation continues in Gaza, the West Bank and in Palestine," he told AFP.

PLO officials have voiced hopes that militant groups may agree to halt violence in the Gaza Strip in reconciliation talks launched following the arrest of 200 militants after a double suicide bombing on April 9 outside two settlements killed eight Jews.

Ghawshah said Hamas had joined other opposition groups in the talks with the Palestinian Authority because it wanted to ease tensions in the Gaza Strip and avoid inter-Palestinian conflict.

Hamas had therefore dropped its demand that the PLO should abandon the autonomy accords before talks, but had set four conditions for any reconciliation deal, said Ghawshah, one of the group's hardliners.

The demands include an end to the Palestinian police crackdown on militants and the release of all those still held, the cancellation of sentences handed out by the military court and an end to the disarming of militants.

It has also demanded an "impartial" inquiry into bloody clashes between Palestinian police and militants in November in Gaza which left 12 dead.

On Sunday an Islamic Jihad leader Nafiz 'Azzam said there could be an agreement soon with the Palestinian self-rule authority, while housing "minister" Zakariya al-Agha said he was optimistic.

Finance "minister" Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi voiced hopes Saturday of a breakthrough in the talks with Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad.

15 'Militants' Released; 2 More Hamas Men Sentenced

TA2204114595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Another 15 Muslim militants have been released from custody by the Palestinian Police. This leaves some 100 still in prison. To discuss their release, the Palestinian Police has now set up a special committee for those described as political detainees.

Two more Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists have been jailed by the special military court in Gaza. Muhammad al-Sayyad was given a seven-year term and Khalid Mutlak four years for involvement in attacks against Israel. This brings to nine the number of Muslim militants jailed by the Palestinian court.

More Hamas Men Freed; 'Arafat OK's DFLP Paper

TA2404092095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police today released another seven Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, including two who were arrested after the capturing of the booby trapped truck in Tel Sheva'. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that some 100 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists are still being held in custody.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has allowed the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] to issue a daily political paper in Gaza; it will be named AL-JAMAHIR [THE MASSES]. Gaza Strip sources say licensing the paper is part of the appeasement between the Palestinian Authority and the opposition.

Sha'th Says Meeting With Israel Delayed Until 7 May

NC2204200595 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, April 22 (AFP)—Nabil Sha'th, chief negotiator for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said Saturday [22 April] that planned talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had been postponed for seven days.

He said the meeting in Cairo would be held on May 7 instead of April 30 as he had announced on Wednesday.

Sha'th gave no reason for the delay in the talks on extending self-rule on the occupied West Bank, in particular redeploying Israeli troops away from Palestinian population centres so that self-rule elections may take place.

"I hope that this meeting, which will take place after a long break, will lead to a breakthough," he said.

Sha'th and Peres co-chair the Israeli-PLO liaison committee which oversees all the autonomy negotiations and tries to settle disputes.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Peres decided during a telephone conversation last Tuesday to hold the meeting of the Israel- Palestinian liaison committee.

Under the 1993 Declaration of Principles for autonomy, Israel was to redeploy on the West Bank by the eve of elections scheduled for last July 13. But Israel has balked at any withdrawal until the security climate improves.

The two sides set themselves a July 1 target date to reach agreement on the next phase of self-rule. But that was before eight people died in a double suicide bombing by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip on April 9.

Sha'th said he would visit on Sunday some of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel that the self-rule Authority wants freed.

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Meanwhile, a new round of negotiations to try to reach a deal on Palestinian elections are due to be held in Cairo on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Official Pessimistic Over Talks With Israelis

NC2304152195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—The 15th round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will begin on Tuesday, the day after tomorrow. The negotiations will revolve around the nature, structure, and jurisdictions of the projected legislative council.

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine representative at the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has ruled out the possibility of achieving positive results during this round. He pointed out that the Israelis continue to place obstacles in the path of the negotiations. He maintained that the vital issues are still the subject of dispute.

The Palestinian official added that Israel continues to avoid implementing the Oslo Accord, particularly the section pertaining to elections and the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the towns and villages in the West Bank.

Subayh expressed the hope that Israeli Foreign Minister Peres will give positive responses to the main problems during the Liaison Committee's meeting on 7 May. The meeting, which will also be attended by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, will discuss the issues of redeployment, lifting the Israeli ban, and the release of Palestinian detainees.

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Algeria

Sifi on Economy, IMF, Presidential Elections

LD2304200895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to EL MOUDJAHID published today, Mokdad Sifi, the head of government, described the government's activities after a year of its appointment as positive. He presented a round-up of the economic results. You will be able to follow a summary of that in the economic news.

Regarding consultations between the government and the economic and social operators, he said that he attached great importance to that.

Regarding the deteriorating standard of living following the International Monetary Fund's measures, the head of government said that the government was not implementing the IMF's instruction, but an Algerian plan that had the support of the international community and the IMF with a view to sharing out the burden among all the groups.

Regarding preparations for the presidential elections, he said that they were proceeding satisfactorily and that the amendments to the election law will soon be submitted to the Transitional National Council, and stressed the authorities' determination to enable the citizens to perform their duty to vote.

In reply to a question on combating terrorism, Mokdad Sifi commended the efforts made by the army and the security and gendarmerie forces, and their persistent work to protect the citizens and property. He said that their successes were not confined to the Ain Defla operation, but extended to other regions of the homeland due to the awareness and assistance of citizens after it had become clear to them that terrorism has been harming the people's gains for years.

Regarding violations mentioned by some sources, the head of government said that the People's National Army was an Algerian army whose members were recruited from among the sons of the people and from various parts of the country, and that it was not capable of carrying out unlawful actions. If there were violations, these will be by individuals and the military must not be held responsible.

He recalled the head of state's call to the National Human Rights Monitoring Group and associations to carry out investigations to expose violations, and then the state will bear its responsibility in punishing the perpetrators.

Regarding the presence of international observers during the presidential elections; the form of that presence will not be decided until the election law has been endorsed.

The head of government described the diplomatic moves as positive, as they had presented a true picture of the situation in Algeria.

On the U.S. stance, he said that he wished it was more realistic. He reaffirmed his government's readiness to receive a delegation from the U.S. Congress, so that it will be clear to them that the people reject terrorism whatever the justifications.

At the end of his statement, the head of government stressed the need to teach Algerian history to the coming generations.

Says Inflation 'Controlled' in 1994

LD2304211795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement he made to the daily EL MOUDJAHID, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi assessed the activities of his government in various fields, particularly the economic ones. He made the statement on the occasion of the first anniversary of his government, as it was installed a year ago.

Abdelkrim Anis has the details:

[Anis] On the subject of inflation, Mokdad Sifi pointed out that inflation was controlled in 1994 as the inflation rate was only 29 percent, while it was expected to reach 42 percent for that year. This enabled an improvement in the purchasing power of the citizens, particularly because the reserves of the Algerian Central Bank witnessed a clear increase and reached $2.6 billion dollars—this covers three months of imports. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Libya

LD2104211595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian-Libyan summit has led to the signing of several agreements in the spheres of transportation, energy, hydrocarbons and telecommunications, in addition to other sectors which all embody bilateral cooperation between Algeria and the Jamahiriyah. Over to Chakib Saniyaten for more details:

[Saniyaten] It is a document which embodies the bilateral Algerian-Libyan cooperation in agreements covering a number of vital sectors. In the sphere of equipment, there are agreements on the building of a road linking I-N-Amenas to Ghadamis via the border post of Dabdab, and also the building of airports in Ghadamis, Libya, and Dabdab, in Algeria.

The two sides have also agreed to exploit together the subterranean water resources found in Ghadamis and Dabdab. As for the sector of labor and social security, the two countries signed an agreement which will entitle Libyan workers in Algeria and Algerian workers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah to social security, benefits, and pension. The two sides also signed an agreement with two manpower agencies which would send more Algerian specialists to Libya.

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In the sector of posts and telecommunications, there will be a fiber optic link which will allow the passage of Libyan telephone, telegraphic, and telex communications with the outside world through Algeria. Studies will be carried out to implement some decisions in the area of posts between the two public administrations, including the Libyan international mail. The agreement also allows for an exchange of technicians and engineers. Libya would particularly benefit from Algerian expertise in this area.

In the health sector, the agreement covers four areas: prevention, training of Libyan paramedics, the exchange of manpower, and finally the setting up of an Algerian-Libyan pharmaceutical company. All in all, Algerian-Libyan cooperation will be further developed in line with the orientations of the leaders of the two countries and their political will.

[Begin recording] [Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri] We have agreed to intensify cooperation in numerous spheres, including industry, energy, and human resources. Furthermore, the border demarcation committee will meet in June in Algiers, God willing.

['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation] We regard this second meeting as an historic opportunity to hold political consultations on numerous issues relating to our domestic situation, to the Maghreb, the Mediterranean, Africa, and the Arab world in general. There is an interaction in the Arab homeland, Africa, and the Mediterranean and there are numerous stations [as heard] we must stop at as these constitute a direct challenge to our two countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria. [end recording]

[Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French at 1800 broadcasts a related report as follows: "Large-scale projects covering the social, economic, and security spheres were mapped out at I-N-Amenas over the past 24 hours at the Algerian-Libyan summit. Algerian-Libyan cooperation will henceforth move on to a higher stage in the areas of health, telecommunications and hydraulics. Madjid Laagal reports:

"[Laagal] In the area of health, for example, Libya is offering as a development possibility a well-equipped 1,400-bed university hospital, and in this context, is offering to place doctors in our teaching hospitals under three-month contracts, which would enable it to solve the problem of major clinical cases and at the same time reduce dependence on other countries. There are developments also in the area of telecommunications. Algeria and Libya will within a matter of weeks set up a communications link using fiber optics which will be used by Algeria for its telephone, telegraphic, and computer connections with the outside world. On the other hand Libya's postal service will be channelled through Algeria. Libya is also very interested in purchasing telecommunications equipment in Algeria.

"Cooperation in the area of infrastructures will take the practical form of the development of the two major highways of In Amenas-Debdab-Ghdames and Djanet-Ghat. Regarding water resources, some underground water courses are shared by the two countries and must therefore be managed and organized in common so as to serve the hydro-agricultural development of the region as a whole."]

'Selective Approach' Regarding NPT Condemned

LD2104184895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramdane Lamara, Algeria's permanent delegate to the United Nations, addressed the conference on the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] in New York yesterday and talked about the selective approach followed when dealing with the NPT. Mr. Lamara said that this selectivity harmed the universality of this treaty and the objective behind the policy of nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. Lamara also talked about the ambition of the Arab states to turn the Middle East into a zone free from nuclear weapons and from all the other weapons of mass destruction. He said that the committed and constructive position taken by Algeria in the area of disarmament was a position built on a basis that relies on various and diverse contributions to the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the preservation of regional and international security.

Brother of Salvation Front Leader Reported Arrested

LD2304142995 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the daily LA TRIBUNE, Abdelhamid Belhadj, the brother of Ali Belhadj, the number two leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, was arrested by the police in Algiers.

TNC Member Arezki Assassinated in Algiers

LD2104195095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Security Services today announced that Mr. Oukid Arezki, member of the Transitional National Council [TNC], 71 years old, was assassinated at midday today when he was shot at in Bouzrina Street in Algiers. The security source pointed out that the victim was assassinated by armed criminal elements. [passage omitted]

Schoolteacher Shot Dead; 23 Criminals 'Liquidated'

LD2204194195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Services today announced that Mrs. Hadji Milouda Nadji Jouma Ratiba, 38 years old, a teacher at the Polytechnic School of

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Architecture in El Harrach, was killed at 1000 this morning when she was shot on leaving home in the Bouraoui quarter in El Harrach. According to the same source her husband, who is also a teacher at the same school, was injured. The Security Services added that their forces launched a search operation following this attack.

The Security Services announced in another communique that 23 criminals were liquidated following several search operations mounted by the security forces in Chlef and Jijel. Eight hideouts and three bomb-making facilities were destroyed.

In Algiers, Tipaza, Blida, Skikda, and Boumerdas the security forces seized a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Egypt

U.S. Media 'Haste' in Wake of Bombing Scolded

NC2304065195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 23 Apr 95

[From the "Correspondent's Dispatch" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arabs and Muslims in the United States breathed a sigh of relief when it was found that the culprits who blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City were Americans, not Arabs. Arabs and Muslims were subjected to numerous acts of harassment in various U.S. cities after the media said that the suspected bombers were from the Middle East. Our Washington correspondent 'Abbas Mutawalli reports:

[Begin Mutawalli recording] The U.S. media initially acted with haste when they pointed an accusing finger at extremist Islamic movements as the parties responsible for the tragic U.S. incident. Meanwhile Arab and Islamic organizations in the United States were the first parties to denounce the incident and extend assistance to the victims. In official circles, President Clinton was perhaps the person who acted with the most circumspection by warning the media not to accuse particular ethnic or religious groups before the culprits were caught.

Although the incident occurred two years to the day after Federal Bureau of Investigation agents stormed the headquarters of David Koresh's religious group in Waco, Texas, self-styled experts on terrorism ruled out that the detonation of a booby-trapped truck—a method favored by extremist Islamic movements in Beirut and Israel, as they put it—could have been carried out by U.S. citizens.

The first indication that these experts had made the wrong assessment was when the FBI distributed two police drawings of two possible suspects, neither of whom resembled a Middle Eastern type. Eventually it turned out that the first suspect, who was arrested an hour and a half after the incident for a traffic violation, was a sympathizer of the David Koresh group and a hater of the FBI because its agents had demolished the group's headquarters over the heads of the men, women, and children inside it. It is well-known that the bombed Alfred Murrah Building houses FBI offices.

In an indirect apology, THE WASHINGTON POST, published a report about Muslims praying in their houses of worship and collecting donations for the Oklahoma City bombing victims, most of whom were children.

Numerous Muslims of various nationalities express dismay at the distorted image which the media usually give to Muslims. They point out that anyone who commits violence against innocent people in the name of Islam is regarded by all Arabs and Muslims as a criminal who knows nothing about his religion and who does not represent the Muslim community, which abides by its noble religion's teachings about love, fraternity, and peace. [end recording]

Mubarak Views Libya, NPT, Peace, 'Terrorism'

NC2304162095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1251 GMT 23 Apr 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents following his inauguration of the sodium chloride and caustic soda production complex on 23 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Egypt's help in transporting Libyan pilgrims was the main topic in the world media and was the public's main theme of discussions. What is your comment on this?

[Mubarak] Pilgrimage is a religious duty. I do not believe that we can prevent any person from performing the pilgrimage as long as all the procedures are correct, nor can Saudi Arabia turn back any pilgrim. But the problem with Libya was the embargo. We found it was our duty toward a neighboring Islamic country and an Arab Muslim people wanting to perform the pilgrimage—and when we saw that Libya did not want to make a request—to take on the issue, proceed with the legal procedures, and request permission to transport them with any airline company, not necessarily an Egyptian one. We saw that we could achieve several objectives. The first was to fulfill the citizens' Islamic duties. The second was not to push Libya into violating the embargo resolution, thus creating problems and complicating the situation, and not to embarrass other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, when planes landed or if measures were taken to prevent them from doing so. We found it was better to remove all these problems for a neighboring, Islamic, and Arab country and request that we transport the pilgrims legally. We obtained the permission to do so.

Yes, a Libyan plane did fly. It was said that it flew without permission. We tried to make it turn back. There were two planes. One did not take off and the second entered our air space. We could not make it turn back because we could not treat it as a hostile plane. It

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continued its flight and that was during the night. We had no other solution. It landed in Saudi Arabia where the pilgrims disembarked and then it flew directly back.

In order to prevent a repetition, we speeded up the Misr Air flights.

[Correspondent] Is Egypt continuing its efforts to lift the sanctions?

[Mubarak] We have made many efforts. All we can do is to inform the Libyan side of the developments and contact the other side on what could be done. We have done our utmost. We have been accused of violating the law. We are not violating the law. We are helping to prevent tension in the region, helping to reach the right legal solution.

[Correspondent] How does the Israeli stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] affect the peace process and will contacts be made between Egypt and Israel on the latter's nuclear program after the New York conference?

[Mubarak] The Israeli nuclear program has been going on for a long time, even before 1967. We were one of 18 countries that prepared the NPT. We joined it in 1968. The treaty was submitted to our parliament and it ratified it. Following the 1973 war and during the discussions of the Camp David agreement framework, this issue was raised by the late President Anwar al-Sadat and then Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin but it was agreed to postpone it until signs of peace appeared in the region. The time has now come to renew the treaty. There is a peace agreement between us and Israel, another one between Israel and Jordan, there is a Declaration of Principles agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and there are negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This means that there is a prospect for peace and we want our region to be free from weapons of mass destruction. This is why we raised the issue. We want the NPT to be renewed but we want all to join it in implementation of our [words indistinct] to the United Nations in 1975 to turn the Middle East into a zone free from weapons of mass destruction. We said that we want all the parties to join it, including Israel, and that there is no need at all to let any country be the exception as long as there is peace. Israel says there is no peace yet. No, there is peace, the peace process is continuing, and there are no signs of war. Therefore, we must all join the NPT. I hope that we will reach a solution on Israel's nuclear weapons through negotiations after some time so that it will not be said that there are double standards, such as with North Korea and Israel. I hope that the peace process will not be affected but we must reach an agreement at some time by having Israel join the NPT or allowing inspection of its nuclear sites. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The peace process is currently passing through an extremely critical stage, and Egypt made the first peace steps in the region. Will Egypt make efforts to advance the peace process on all tracks, particularly since Israel is unwilling to honor all the pledges which it undertook before?

[Mubarak] We are holding constant exchanges with Israel in this regard. During my talks in the United States and my talks with the Israelis, I warned of the grave consequences if the Palestinian track is obstructed. The entire issue will be complicated and could harm everyone, including Israel. Therefore, I held talks with the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister, the U.S. Government, and all the parties concerned. I told them that they must focus on the Palestinian track because it represents the core of the Middle East problem. This, however, does not mean that we should ignore the Syrian track. We should not ignore it.

I say that the Palestinian track is the core of the problem. They signed a Declaration of Principles. They also signed the method of implementation. Therefore, the implementation must be carried out. There are obstacles. We must expect continuous obstacles. Terrorist operations will also continue. But if we freeze ourselves, terrorism will succeed and those helping terrorism will increase and the problem will become more complicated. We must, therefore, adopt the necessary measures to ensure cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and Israel for the sake of implementing the Declaration of Principles.

[Correspondent] The issue of terrorism is [words indistinct] recent terrorist operations in the United States and Japan. You were the first to demand that efforts be coordinated to confront international terrorism. What are the measures that could be taken in this regard?

[Mubarak] We will not be able to confront international terrorism except through international cooperation. In my cable of condolences to the U.S. President, I told him that there must be international cooperation to resist this terrorism because it is spreading. And when this terrorism spreads, it will be dangerous for everyone, not only Egypt. Egypt, praise be to God, is capable. But Europe and the Scandinavian countries, which are harboring some killers, will pay the price. I have said before that the price will be high for this terrorism. I hope that there will be cooperation among the countries to face terrorism.

They say that terrorism has been motived by poverty. What about Japan? Is Japan a poor country? Japan can help everyone. What about those, and I do not want to mention names, who finance terrorism? Are they poor? No, they are rich. Those who finance terrorism are rich.

Pilgrim Flights Suspended at Libyan Request

NC2104160795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Hilmi 'Uthman, director of the pilgrims hall at Cairo airport, today stated that Egypt Air flights transporting Libyan

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pilgrims will be suspended tomorrow and after tomorrow at the request of the Libyan authorities.

He added in a statement today that the flights will resume on Monday [24 April] and continue through 3 May, with the exception of 29 and 30 April. He noted that Egypt Air will operate a total of 21 flights to transport the pilgrims.

He added that the employees of the Libyan Airlines in Tripoli and Benghazi airports are currently handling the departure procedures, while Egypt Air employees are handling clearance procedures on pilgrims' arrival in Jeddah.

Minister: Talks With IMF, World Bank Not Suspended

NC2204112795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, has denied reports that the government's negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank were suspended recently.

In statements to AL-MASA' newspaper today, Ghali said the IMF and the World Bank have never objected to Egypt's economic reform program, which has yielded positive results. Foremost of these results, he added, was the reduction of the deficit in the trade balance and a surplus in the balance of payments totaling approximately $3 billion, in addition to controlling inflation rates.

He explained that all these positive measures which achieved monetary and fiscal stability were the result of the economic reform program which was praised by all international organizations.

He said the IMF and the World Bank have not forwarded new requests on liberalizing the banking and foreign trade sectors and on stimulating privatization, asserting that in such cases Egypt takes whatever measures are suited to its national interest. He added: We are able to settle our foreign debts, which amount to $30 billion. He denied that Egypt has requested that the debt payments be postponed, as some people have said recently.

Dr. Ghali affirmed that dropping one third of the debts, amounting to $4 billion, is an undisputed fact and that they will be dropped as scheduled.

Five Policemen Injured in al-Minya Attack

NC2204165295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1626 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—A police officer and four recruits suffered various injuries today when unidentified gunmen fired on them in Markaz Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt.

A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry said: While police vehicle No. 2162 carrying an officer from the Criminal Research Department in the al-Minya Security Directorate and four recruits and escorted by armored vehicle No. 5123 from the Central Security Forces in al-Minya was travelling on the road between the villages of Tandah and Mar Jirjis, Markaz Mallawi, unidentified gunmen appeared from the fields as the police vehicle approached Mar Jirjis village and started firing at it.

The source added that the police driver stopped the vehicle and the officer and recruits fired back at the culprits, who fled.

As a result of the incident, 1st Lieutenant Anwar Midhat Zaghlul suffered superficial injuries from the vehicle's broken glass. Recruit Tahir Ahmad Nasir was hit by a bullet in the upper left arm; recruit Mamduh 'Abd-al-Hamid was shot in the pelvis; recruit 'Abd-al-Nabi Ibrahim Abu-al-Yazid suffered scalp injuries; and recruit 'Ali Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al had his left arm broken.

The injured were evacuated to the Mallawi General Hospital for treatment; their condition is satisfactory.

Officials from the al-Minya Security Directorate and various investigation bodies moved to the site of the attack.

The security source added that the security organs are combing the nearby fields and pursuing the culprits.

The public prosecution office has been notified so as to start its investigations.

AL-AHRAM Praises Recent Foreign Policy Steps

Libyan, NPT Moves Lauded

NC2304081495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM praises the way in which Egyptian foreign policy has been conducted in various spheres in the past few days. It points out the comprehensive character of this policy, which is based on Egyptian interests and national security in its broadest sense, which includes pan-Arab security as well.

In an editorial today, the paper singles out two developments. The first is in New York, where an international conference to review and extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] was held. The second development encompassed New York, Cairo, Tripoli, and many other capitals in an effort to contain the Libyan Hajj crisis. AL-AHRAM asserts that in both cases Egypt acted in a way conducive to world peace and stability.

The paper notes that in its address to the New York conference, Egypt unhesitatingly declared that it cannot accept an indefinite extension of the NPT. With regard to the Libyan crisis, Egypt found itself in a situation

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where it was seeking to give assistance without defying international legality or making Libya's Lockerbie crisis more complicated.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says that in all these actions, Egypt only sought to respect the principles that safeguard the Middle East's peace and stability because it appreciates its responsibility as a pivotal country in this region.

'Decisive' NPT Stand Applauded

NC2204110495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper describes Egypt's address to the international conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as frank and clear regarding its decisive stand on the treaty's indefinite extension. Egypt, the paper says, does not find itself in a position that will allow it to support the treaty's extension because the regional situation is not stable enough to support such a measure.

In its editorial today, it emphasizes that Egypt's demands are clear. Foremost among them, it adds, is an agreement on the principle of equal obligations and rights on the regional level and the initiation of talks on arrangements to implement these obligations and rights on the condition that such measures be complete when the peace structure is completed.

The paper explains that this principled Egyptian stand is backed by an implementable measure proposed by Egypt, proceeding from Egypt's commitment and belief that peace is the only option to guarantee the Middle Eastern countries' future. Egypt is raising the issue of Israel's stand on the treaty not because it seeks confrontation with Israel. Tel Aviv's failure to fulfill the treaty's obligations and the continuation of the Israeli nuclear program make us feel frustrated, disappointed, and insecure, the paper says.

Concluding its editorial, it asserts that Egypt's stand enjoys explicit and implicit support from various parties within the conference.

In another editorial on the subject, the same paper says the phrase nonalignment has assumed new connotations as it was apparent that many nonaligned countries have certain interests in adopting a stand on the NPT's indefinite extension. Some of the movement's countries, the paper adds, led the world trend toward an extension for a defined term.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech on Pilgrimage, NPT Issues

LD2104221895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 95

[Speech by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Ghadamis on 20 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers: I greet you, sons of Ghadamis, the steadfast oasis bordering the desert; the oasis which harbors the roots of Arabism and Islam in the heart of the desert. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we want to address the world from the historic oasis of Ghadamis—from this hall and from the heart of the desert—to address and challenge the world with our nation's greatness and strength. [passage omitted]

This victory achieved by the Libyan people with their steadfastness and the presence of the masses in all the squares and streets throughout the year to make the voice of the Libyan people heard to the entire world were not in vain and were not wasted. The tyrannical nations which control what is wrongly and falsely called the Security Council have realized that there is a people determined to take their right. They tried with every means and ways to affect the morale of the Libyan people. They tried to push the Libyan people into despair. [passage omitted]

They have realized that we are serious in Libya and that history is being rewritten in Libya and that the new revival emanating from the heart of the desert, from Libya, is based on facts and capabilities that cannot be vanquished. They have realized that there is a people who embody the greatness of the nation and there is a people determined to put an end to any arrogance. There is a people determined to sacrifice their lives and die and never surrender. Therefore, they can only give in and surrender to the will of the Libyan people. [passage omitted]

This pilgrimage to Mecca is a sacred right for the Muslim people of Libya. This is a right but if we had not stuck to it and declared to the world our resolve to wrest our right whatever the price and our readiness to accept all the consquences and the responsibilities resulting from our decision to stick to our right to perform the hajj unhindered and without anybody's permission, they would have continued to deprive us of this sacred right for ever. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the Iraqi people are two steps away from Mecca and are prevented from going on the hajj on America's orders, from the other side of the Atlantic. The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Yugoslavia are also not permitted to go on the pilgrimage. This situation will continue unless the Iraqi people decided to recover their right and make the decisive revolutionary decision. If they do not do it, no one else will give the Iraqi people this right. [passage omitted]

Any nation which squanders its right to national and pan-Arab decision-making which concerns their life, their destiny, their honor, are dead people without doubt and they do not deserve to live.

Brothers, we insist that the Iraqi people go on the pilgrimage by air from Iraq to Mecca without any hindrance. The victory of the Libyan people should open

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the way to a pan-Arab victory. The entire Arab nation is being victimized; the nation is being exposed to humiliation and degradation every day. You are responsible for paving the way and for paying the price for the nation which is being humiliated.

The Iraqi people are humiliated. The Iraqi people are being starved to death. The Iraqi people are being exposed to a tragedy which brought disgrace to the entire Arab nation. The Iraqi people were not the ones who entered Kuwait. The Iraqi people did not make the decision to occupy Kuwait. The occupation of Kuwait was a limited military operation. It had ended and it had been terminated. The Iraqi people are innocent of any guilt. However, the Iraqi people are being starved to death today. They are dying from sickness. They are humiliated and dismembered and trampled upon. Their honor is being trampled upon.

Planes of the other nations fly in Iraqi airspace. Foreign armies are trampling on the dear Arab soil of Iraq. The Iraqi people themselves must inevitably put an end to encroachment, and to this humiliation. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people made the pilgrimage on the backs of camels in full view of the world. Many pilgrims—men and women—died on the way to the pilgrimage on the backs of camels. The pilgrimage on camel back did not stir the conscience of what they called the United Nations or the conscience of what they called Security Council. It did not stir the conscience of the Arab rulers or the Muslim rulers but it has moved the conscience of the Islamic nation and the Arab nation and the world.

After this, we no longer have in front of us anything but to make the decision which concerns us and which concerns our legitimate right, namely to go to Mecca directly from Libya by air. This is what happened. This is what happened.

Today, the Libyan people began to see that their voice and their will have influence in the entire world. However, we do not speak only about the right of the Libyan people. We are speaking for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Belgrade. They should go to the pilgrimage directly without permission from the so-called United Nations. Also Iraq should do so without permission from anyone. The Iraqi pilgrims should immediately leave for Mecca by plane without taking permission from anyone. This is a sacred right which neither the United Nations, America, nor Kuwait, or any others have anything to do with it.

The Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Muslims in Belgrade, should challenge the embargo and head for Mecca to perform the hajj duty.

Brothers, we have not asked any Arab country to embarrass itself. We have not asked any Arab country to embarrass itself before the colonial countries. We have not asked for help from any Arab government. We have never thought of the embargo resolution which was issued falsely and untruthfully by a false council controlled by the three big colonial countries. We have not thought of this resolution, and we have not asked the Arab countries to open their airspace and challenge this resolution, and we, ourselves, have never thought of undermining this resolution. We do not need Libyan planes to go to Europe until doomsday, and, God willing, no plane will come from Europe, and no plane will go to Europe. We consider Europe non-existent; we ignore it, and we can do without it, and without their planes, airports, communications, relations, and everything.

We have not asked any Arab country to send its planes to Libya for trade, tourism, passengers, and cargo, and we will not ask any Arab country to allow our planes to go to it. We do not have anything to send on Libyan planes either to Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, or any Arab country. We do not need the planes of the Arab countries, may God preserve them, nor have we asked them to fly a plane. They should adhere to the air embargo until doomsday. Even if America lifts it, we forgive them if they adhere to it. And, for their sake, we will join them in adhering to the embargo, even if this air embargo is lifted from Libya. We will not send any plane to either Tunisia, or Egypt, or Sudan, or any other Arab country in order to make the Arabs, the Arab governments, experience international legitimacy. The international legitimacy which has become a knife slaughtering the Arab people, and the small peoples.

We are in no need of air trade, nor air contacts, nor a commercial decision coming from any Arab or European country; we do not need that. But we are prepared to die for the sake of the pilgrimage issue; there is no argument about that at all; there is no tolerance with regard to this issue at any rate. Every year we will leave Libya on board airliners to Mecca. Our Arab brothers [words indistinct] the weak, or [words indistinct] with their hands and feet and thoughts the decision of war so that they can prove their loyalty to imperialism. But regarding the issue of the inalienable rights of the Libyan people vis-a-vis the nation, we cannot at all compromise these rights because this is the responsibility [words indistinct]. [shouts]

We told the Arab leaders: Brothers, we do not want to go on the pilgrimage and we are a state situated some distance away from the pilgrimage. [Words indistinct] we went on the backs of camels and on foot. We told them that we were going to the pilgrimage and that that issue was decided by the people. They refused to allow us to travel. When now we have decided to proceed and use our airliners, what did they say? What did America and [word indistinct] and the world say? They all said that that was our lawful right of these Muslims and we could not prevent them from that. But if they decide not to then this would be better [words indistinct]. But now when we have decided they all said that the Libyan people have this right [words indistinct]. The Libyan airliners left Libya for Mecca and the Egyptian airliners which were chartered by Libyan Airlines left Egypt and

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landed in Libyan airports in Tripoli, and Banghazi today. This would have never been realized—no airliner left Egypt for Libya before that when the ban was in force; today the airliners chartered by the Libyan Airlines from Egypt Air took off from Egypt and landed in Libyan airports so that we can use them to transfer pilgrims directly to Mecca.

We do not want to embarrass any Arab government nor we will say that any Arab government has allowed us to cross its airspace. We have ignored all protests because these protests are feeble since we would wage a holy war for the sake of Mecca. The West knows that it waged a crusade for two centuries, over 200 years, Christians against Muslims. For what reason? Because the Muslims were said to have prevented Christians from going on their pilgrimage, in other words to Jerusalem.

Therefore we are, in return for that, prepared to enter a religious war for which we will mobilize the capabilities of the Islamic nation, and we are capable of doing it, even if it lasts 100, 200, or 1,000 years, in order to reach Mecca directly unhindered.

The brothers in Saudi Arabia have now taken the stance they are expected to take—they said they would welcome any pilgrim who arrives in Saudi Arabia, and we do not care whether this pilgrim arrives by air, sea, or on land; we have got nothing to do with that. If a pilgrim arrives carrying on him all necessary documents and money we will be happy to welcome him and serve him; we do not care about anything else. This is is the correct stance. Out of my appreciation for such a stance today I sent a cable to King Fahd in which I said: Brother King Fahd: Now for the first time you have taken the correct and brave stance; this which you have done is the action required. A few years ago we told you: Brothers in Saudi Arabia you have nothing to do with the pilgrims—whether they have or do not have permission. How did they leave their country, and how they have arrived? This does not concern you. He who comes to Saudi Arabia you should welcome. In actual fact this year they officially announced that they would welcome any pilgrim who arrives, and they said it was not their concern how and on what he arrives. Thus the Iraqi pilgrims should leave on their own airliners to go only for the pilgrimage—from Iraq to Mecca. I am certain that Saudi Arabia would not ask them questions about how they left, etc. [applause]

But there is another story—another thing, namely a state of war exists between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. If the state of war between Saudi Arabia and any other Islamic state affects the performing of the pilgrimage then we ought here to seriously consider this issue. Either Saudi Arabia does not get entangled in any problem and abandons politics and becomes a state similar to the Vatican so that there would be no problem between it and any other state, or it should now show practicaly that despite the fact that if relations are broken or if there is a state of war existing with any state the head of that state and his compatriots should perform the pilgrimage as if no state of war exists with Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage. If the Iraqi president wants to perform the pilgrimage, then he should leave Baghdad on board his aircraft to Jeddah, and in this case Saudi Arabia should—by virtue of the fact that the holy places are situated inside its own territories—treat him like anoy other pilgrim and like any president of any Islamic state as if no state of war exists between them. I call on the rulers of Iraq and the Iraqi people to do so—to leave on board their airliners and land in Jeddah and go to the Ka'bah and then return to Iraq.

I call on the Iraqi rulers and the Iraqi people to do this. They should take off in their planes and land in Jeddah and go to the Ka'bah and then return to Iraq. This should be between parentheses and separate from the relationship between the State of Iraq and the Saudi state regardless of whether they were in a state of war or anything else. This is because, my brothers, the pilgrimage rites are being hampered by resolutions of the Christian states who are controlled by the United States. It is very very serious thing. We can never allow it.

The Muslims in Bosnia Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, Yugoslavia which is affected by sanctions and Bosnia-Herzegovina also has sanctions against it. The question of hajj is another matter. They should come out in their planes from Belgrade, from Sarajevo, to Jeddah. Iraq should go to the pilgrimage by planes; Libya should go to the pilgrimage by planes. Failing this we will enter a religious war at the level of the Islamic nation.

Brothers, I am certain, and from the heart of the Sahara; from immortal Ghadamis, we can raise our voice, and the voice of the world. We are able to direct an appeal to the Islamic nation today to engage in jihad. We are certain that the Islamic nation will enter the jihad battle. The appeal which is made from Libya, from the world popular Islamic leadership, the appeal which is made by the great Libyan revolution is not like the calls of the heretics and extremists or those who are called extremists or the terrorists. They know that the call which is made from Libya is the call of right and it is the voice of right, and that the Islamic nation will respond to the call of right.

We can challenge and make an appeal to the Islamic nation to enter the battle of jihad. The Islamic nation is ready to respond to this call and enter the battle of jihad. But we do not want to get the world once again into a new crusader war after the crusader war which had been waged by Christianity and which had been a tragedy in the history of mankind and which lasted well over two centuries. We said that we do not want, we say that we do not want to involve the world in a new crusader war only if we had to; only if they harm our right to life, our sacred right. Then we would make an appeal and the new crusader war would break out and the new religious

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world war would take place. It is not a war of extremism or heresy and not as they say: terrorism. It will be a sacred jihad.

We have the capability to rouse millions of people in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Africa, and the Islamic peoples in Europe, Turkey, and Asia; from Tajikstan to Rabat to Istanbul to Bosnia-Herzegovina, to Lagos, South Africa, to Bangladesh—we can incite millions of people in a religious battle; we are capable of that. But now we address a warning only. We only warn. The Christian states should stop their insolence toward the Arab nation—the Islamic nation. They are trying to prevent Muslims from reaching the House of God. The Iraqis are prevented from getting to Mecca. The Libyans are prevented from getting to Mecca. Muslims are being prevented from getting to Mecca. This insolence has gone too far. Either they retreat or we swear to them that we are capable of stirring up millions of people within the Islamic nation and enter into a religious war which may go on for hundreds of years; it will be more ferocious than the Crusades. The aggressors will be defeated. Those who are hostile to this nation and are preventing it from getting to its holy places will be defeated. Is it logical that the Iraqis have been for the past few years banned from travelling to Mecca?

We Libyans [words indistinct] and we gave them the excuses so that our position after that will be strong; they themselves said that those people have changed the pilgrimage and went to Jerusalem; they know Libya's attitude to Jerusalem, the attitude of the Libyan people to Zionism. But nevertheless they said that the Libyans were compelled to perform a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to show that they were banned from performing the pilgrimage to Mecca. Nobody made a move. We gave them another opportunity—we went to the pilgrimage on the backs of camels. Women [words indistinct] and went to Mecca. Some died en route and we buried them where they died. Is there no conscience? How many opportunities have we given them?

Now we have taken a decision—that going to the Ka'bah should be direct—through a clear challenge, relayed on radio and television and via satellites so that the whole world could see the Libyan airports and Libyan airliners taking off from Libya for Mecca. They all said that this is a people now which is exercising its lawful right, and that it has given us the opportunity but we did not respond at the popular level; we did not do any favor to this people. Thus no one has done the Libyan people any favors regarding their travel to Mecca; neither the United Nations nor the Arab League nor any Arab ruler nor anyone else. The chartered airliners are now arriving in Libya for the first time. We used to ask them to bring their planes, so we could charter their planes. Nobody responded. Now, after the Libyan people have decided to exercise this right, they responded because they knew that this thing was correct.

Thousands of volunteers from the Islamic nation, and thousands from the Arab nation, have been on a state of alert since a few days ago when Libya announced that it was going to the pilgrimage directly, and announced their readiness to volunteer in Libya and travel by air to perform the pilgrimage from Libya. Thousands and thousands of the Islamic and Arab nations. Let America, Britain, France, and the council subordinate to them hear this. [crowd chants slogans]

If we opened the door to the volunteers to perform the pilgrimage via Libya, millions would come, and whoever was interested in monitoring this, he would be welcome to do so in order to ensure that the millions were prepared to march to Libya in any historical battle, in the overt confrontation battle against the forces of insolence, the forces of aggression.

They are indicating that the Arab countries should agree to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. I am addressing the Arab nation from Ghadamis, from the heart of the desert this evening to expose falsehood and unveil the amazing facts. Brothers, this is a disgraceful thing: First, the Arab countries do not have atomic bombs, they do not have the capability to manufacture atomic weapons, and yet they go to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as though they have atomic weapons when they do not have them, and they do not have the capability to manufacture them. Why is this extravagance? Why is this exaggeration in insulting and humiliating themselves before the Zionist and imperialist forces? This is humiliation.

What is known as Israel announced officially, and the Security Council, America and the International Atomic Energy Agency know this, that it possesses over 200 nuclear warheads on missiles which have a 4,000-mile range pointing at the Arab homeland, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf. They know this and yet America has not asked what is known as Israel to sign the NPT, nor has it asked for an inspection of its nuclear arsenal or for the destruction of its nuclear arsenal. All America does is focus on Iraq, pursue it, destroy its guns, tanks, planes, and short-range missiles. It is destroying them while the Arab nation watches. What a shame and what a disgrace!

Why is the Israeli nuclear arsenal not destroyed? What is known as Israel is the one who must sign the NPT. It is the Zionist entity which must be inspected. It is the military arsenal of Zionism, the artifical Jewish state, which must be destroyed.

Brothers, the Arabs are being asked to sign a recognition of what is known as Israel under the Israeli nuclear umbrella. Is this what they call peace? Frankly, this is an extremely disgraceful capitulation of the Arab nation. It is a disgraceful capitulation and a signing under the Israeli nuclear umbrella.

The Israelis have the impudence to tell the world that they will not sign unless the Arabs recognize what is known as Israel. Therefore the recognition is tantamount to a complete Arab capitulation.

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We tell them that the Libyan people, the Libyan people [audience chants slogans], the Libyan people will not sign a treaty called the Nonproliferation Treaty for very obvious reasons to the Libyan people, which they want the whole world to hear. First, Libya is not thinking of manufacturing nuclear weapons. If it had the capability, it would have manufactured nuclear weapons openly, because its enemy was in possession of this weapon, and the nuclear deterrent is legitimate in this case. Second, because the enemy has not signed, and will not sign. Moreover, we do not recognize a thing called Israel. We recognize Palestine. We cannot change the geography for the sake of Zionism and imperialism.

A violent destructive explosion shocked America yesterday which killed more than 300 Americans yesterday in the middle of America.

In 1986, they said Libya was the source of terrorism, and that if they attacked Libya, then terrorism would end in the world. This was what the vile, damned Reagan, who is currently suffering from madness, said. He used to rule the largest country in the world while being mad. This is an irresponsible country. The first country which should be disarmed of its nuclear weapons is America. Among our conditions for signing the treaty is the destruction of the atomic weapons of the nuclear countries so that all of us become equal. There would be no injustice anymore, and there would not be any country that would be better than another country, or a nation better than another nation, a nation in possession of atomic weapons, and a nation which did not. Either atomic weapons are forbidden for everyone, or everyone has the right, according to his capabilities, to possess the weapons with which to defend his children.

They said in 1986 that terrorism has ended because we have attacked al-Qadhdhafi and Libya. In fact they wanted to kill al-Qadhdhafi; they said if al-Qadhdhafi is killed terrorism will end. What happened after 1986? Terrorism has moved to America itself, to its capital, to the heart of America. The Americans who died in terrorist operations—what they term as terrorist operations—after 1986 are more than those who died before 1986. This exonerates the Libyan people. The issue is not an issue of terrorism [words indistinct] the Libyan people, as terrorism does exist now. Libya has nothing to do with the explosions that are now shaking the world from Japan to America to the Argentine.

Therefore, it is a question of colonialism; feeble pretexts that they seek in order to control the Arab nation; controlling the Arab nation requires the arranging of [words indistinct]. The first vanguard of the Arab nation is Libya; they want through Libya to humiliate the Arab nation. This is difficult for them; in fact impossible. Libyan cannot be humiliated; it cannot be subjugated; in fact it cannot be defeated no matter what. [shouts and cheers] We are not hasty; nor rash. We are not terrorists. We are very wise, and we have an historic and cultural mission; we are responsible for the coming generations of the Arab nation. We are responsible for the glory of the Arab nation and its past history; we do not soil that history. We have sublime principles. We have sympathy for humanity. If we enter into a war then it will be an inevitable war; a war that will become the solution; if we are engaged into a confrontation then the latter will become the inevitable solution.

Today at I-N-Amenas I met with your brother Liamine Zeroual, the president of Algeria, and his aides. [applause] He sends his regards to you. Algeria has declared that it stands with the Libyan people at this time. [passage omitted]

Despite the painful events taking place in Algeria now, Algeria is the fortress on which we rely in the Arab Maghreb. The Algerian people are a great credit for the Arab nation. The Algerian revolution is an immortal heritage of the nation. [passage omitted]

If they want peace then we welcome peace. If they want war then we cannot prevent them from making such a decision, but we can defeat them. They are free to make such a decision, but we will make the decision to defeat them; they will never be able to harm this nation. [passage omitted]

This is a nation that has the ability to remain steadfast and resist. If they want to restore relations between Libya and America then such relations should be between two equals. From tomorrow they are welcome; the Libyan people will deal with the American people. If they want a rift, then let the rift continue forever; if they want war, then we say welcome to the war. [cheers] We will be hostile toward those who are hostile to us, and we will be peaceful toward those who are peaceful to us. This is a great thing. The voice of the Libyan people has shaken the Islamic and the Arab nations. It has shaken the United Nations. God who supported man is great; God is great; immortality for the Islamic Arab nation. Death for imperialism and Zionism. God is great; this outcry is stronger than the sound of the whining of the engines of the imperialist aircraft, and the fleets of America, and the allies of America. The shout of God is great is stronger, brothers, than the sound of their fleets. God is great and the struggle goes on. Victory will inevitably come, brothers. [cheers]

Sudan

Embassy Staff Members in Kampala Reportedly Expelled

Members Said Beaten, Fired On

EA2204204595 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 22 April (SUNA)—The Ugandan Government expelled yesterday some members of the diplomatic mission of the Republic of

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Sudan in Kampala, so that it should have the same number of members as the Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum.

However, the Ugandan authorities were not satisfied with these measures, and ordered the Ugandan security forces to beat up and fire on members of the embassy. After this they laid siege to the office of the military attache, in a flagrant violation of the Vienna Agreement on Diplomatic Relations.

The Foreign Ministry wishes to draw attention to the fact that these measures were taken following the Tripoli agreement reached through the mediation of the Libyan leadership. This confirms that Uganda is trying to escalate its hostile campaign against Sudan. Contrary to its claims, it is not interested in containing its differences with Sudan, nor in respecting the Tripoli agreement.

These regrettable developments confirm Uganda's involvement in a conspiracy, in collaboration with foreign quarters, targeting Sudan's security, stability and unity. These developments also highlight the Ugandan regime's hostility toward Sudan, represented by its support for the rebel movement in southern Sudan, a matter which it has always been keen to hide despite all the evidence that supports this.

The Foreign Ministry disapproves of the Ugandan security forces' aggression toward the members of the diplomatic mission, as well as the siege of the office of the military attache, and condemn it as an open challenge and a violation of the Vienna Agreement on Diplomatic Relations. It holds the Government of Uganda responsible for the protection and safety of the members of the diplomatic mission and its assets. It demands the immediate lifting of the siege on the embassy.

Foreign Ministry on Expulsion of Diplomats

EA2304145595 Nairobi KNA in English 1245 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, Sudan, 23 April (KNA/PANA)—The Foreign Ministry here says Uganda, by expelling several of its diplomats from Kampala, no longer qualifies to mediate in the southern Sudan civil war. Its minister of state, Mahdi Muhammad Ibrahim, said on Sunday [23 April] that Uganda, a member of the four-state committee of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), has lost all credibility as a broker in the 12-year old southern civil war.

The other IGADD mediating countries are Ethiopia, Kenya and Eritrea.

Ibrahim told the state-owned daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI Sunday here that Sudan was refraining from reciprocating in order to maintain good relations with all African countries.

Kampala announced last Thursday that it was asking Khartoum to reduce its diplomatic representation to five diplomats.

The minister said that, although his government wants to maintain good relations with neighboring countries, "this will not mean continuing to remain passive with regards to these violations with no response from our side".

On Saturday, the Foreign Ministry here issued a statement confirming Kampala's decision to expel several Sudanese diplomats with the aim of bringing parity in the representations of the two countries. [passage omitted]

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Bahrain

Amir Holds Talks With Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD2204185695 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Manama this evening on a two-day visit to the brotherly State of Bahrain. He was welcomed at the airport by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah and Shaykh Hamad Bin 'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the defense force; ministers; chairman of the Shurah Council; Kuwait's ambassador to Bahrain; and senior state and military officials.

The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, today received the Kuwaiti heir apparent. The amir welcomed Shaykh al-Sabah, praising the close ties that link the two brotherly countries. The amir also praised Kuwait's standing by its sisterly State of Bahrain during the recent events in Bahrain.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent praised the State of Bahrain's firm stance in support of its sisterly State of Kuwait. Shaykh al-Sabah briefed Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah on the results of his Asian tour, and wished Bahrain further progress, advancement, loftiness, and prosperity under the leadership of Shaykh Al Khalifah.

Views were also exchanged during the meeting on the latest developments in the region, consolidating cooperation between the two brotherly countries in all fields, and the recent events in Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Musa Conveys Mubarak Message to Amir

JN2204114795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 22 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has received a verbal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in various fields, as well as the Arab situation.

The message was conveyed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during a meeting with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister.

Shaykh 'Isa hailed the deep relations between the two countries and peoples and expressed satisfaction with the development of and progress in bilateral relations.

His highness referred to the wise policy followed by President Husni Mubarak in service of the Arab and Islamic nations' causes, and his good offices aimed to restore Arab solidarity.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, latest developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin Khalifah Al Khalifah, Minister of Communications 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah, Shaykh Salman Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain Mahmud Sami 'Ismat.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, the Egyptian minister expressed pleasure for visiting Bahrain and meeting with his highness the amir and the prime minister. He said he conveyed a message to his highness the amir stressing the strong fraternal bilateral relations.

He expressed pleasure for the positive results of this visit in strengthening bilateral cooperation, consultation, and coordination in various fields in a manner that benefits the two fraternal peoples.

He said the talks with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah dealt with a number of issues that concern bilateral [words indistinct].

Information Minister on Rioting, 'Terrorism,' NPT

NC2204090295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, in Manama, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Some incidents of limited rioting occurred in Bahrain recently. Please give the Arab listeners an idea of what happened.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Actually, I thank you for this question because world media reports contained a great deal of exaggeration. The situation in Bahrain is stable. We are pleased by the interest of our brothers in the Arab world, especially Egypt, in what is happening in Bahrain. We are proud of their stand in support of Bahrain's measures to preserve its security and stability.

We are also proud of Egypt's stand against terrorism and extremism. We are learning from this position and assert that we will do exactly what our brothers in Egypt are doing with regard to their firm position on terrorism and extremism.

[Husayn] The interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states met recently. Did the ministers discuss a unified Gulf security strategy vis-a-vis terrorism issues?

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[Al-Mu'ayyad] This is a very important issue because the GCC countries complement the Arab countries and share the Arab nation's concerns. When they met in Bahrain, the interior ministers were concerned about three points. The first was to support Bahrain's measurers to preserve security and stability in Bahrain. The second was to denounce all attempts from abroad to shake this region's security and stability, especially attempts made by organizations supported from abroad and known parties. I believe the third important point was the adoption by the GCC of a clear resolve to denounce terrorism and extremism. Otherwise, it will only lead to undermine security and stability not only in Bahrain or in GCC countries, but also in the entire Arab world.

[Husayn] Arab reconciliation is one of the important, necessary, and vital issues these days in light of the regional and world changes. What is Bahrain's view on this?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Bahrain backs any stand adopted through the Arab League and the Arab League Council because the League Council is the competent party to deal with such issues. I believe that Bahrain adopted a clear stand during the recent meeting. We affirm that we support Egypt's clear stand and that of President Husni Mubarak, who always seeks not only to unify the Arab world, but also to clarify Arab rights. He adopts a clear position on world forums in the face of anyone attempting to shake confidence in the Arab world in general.

[Husayn] There is a very important issue—the world's inconsistent stand on signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. What is Bahrain's position on this issue?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I believe the Arab League Council has adopted a clear position, but in particular I believe that the world respects Egypt's stand which is based on parity in the world's view. I believe parity means that this treaty should apply to everyone without exception. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government Condemns 'Criminal Deed' in Oklahoma

LD2304131595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1221 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 23 Apr (KUNA)—The state of Kuwait has expressed its sorrow and condemnation of the explosion in Oklahoma City in the United States recently.

The Council of Ministers said that this condemnation "is based upon Kuwait's principled stand: condemning terrorism in all its shapes and forms."

The Cabinet described the incident that took place on Wednesday [19 April] and caused scores of deaths and injuries as well as material damage as a "criminal deed."

Assembly Expresses Solidarity

LD2204162395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Apr—The Kuwaiti National Assembly has condemned last Wednesday's [19 April] explosion at a Federal building in the U.S. state of Oklahoma, which led to the killing of more then 80 people and the injuring of hundreds, and expressed its solidarity with the families of the victims. The Assembly's Secretary Talal al-'Ayyar, who presided over today's session of the National Assembly, said that "the Kuwaiti people share with the American people their grief as a result of the incident."

For his part Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, expressed Kuwait's condolences for the American people over "the Oklahoma disaster," reaffirming Kuwait's appreciation for the American people and the United States and its major role in the war of liberating Kuwait.

The chairman of the Kuwaiti-American friendship committee Nasir al-Sani' offered on behalf of the committee condolences to the American people and expressed his hope that the criminals would be apprehended and brought to justice.

Chief of Staff Reportedly Resigns, Leaves for London

NC2404080295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (MENA)—Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, has resigned the post which he has occupied since 1992.

AL-QABAS newspaper, which published the report, did not explain the reasons for the resignation. However, it said that Maj. Gen. al- Mu'min left Kuwait for London upon submitting his resignation yesterday.

If his resignation is accepted, the strongest candidate to assume the position will be Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier General Fahd al-Amir.

Assembly Rejects Memo Over Article 71 Explanation

LD2204202795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1533 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Apr—The Kuwaiti National Assembly today announced its rejection to the content of a memo submitted by the government to the Constitutional Court, which included a request to interpret Article 71 [on the validity of the Amiri decrees in the absence of parliament] of the Constitution and

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entrusted Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun to follow up the government request in the the Constitutional Court.

Regarding this issue, the preamble of the assembly's introduction stated that "the assembly listened during its session last Tuesday [18 April] and today's session, which is an extension of it, to the debate, dialogue, and realistic and legal interpretations and views presented to refute the content of the interpretation request memo."

The assembly held a public session today under the chairmanship of assembly Secretary Tala al-'Ayyar to continue Tuesday's session, during which the letter that the prime minister and heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah had sent to the assembly, which included the government's abovementioned request.

The assembly's resolution said that "by no means does the evidence given by the government constitute a pretext to justify this request, considering that the ruling of the abovementioned article is clear and does not require any interpretations."

The assembly described the request as a departure "from the range of mere interpretations and falls into the arousing of an objective dispute remote from the jurisdiction of interpretations, a matter that is unacceptable, in addition to the unsoundness of the legal bases on which the interpretation request is based in its entirety." The resolution, which was endorsed by 32 members and opposed by the government, represented at the voting by four ministers, entrusted Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun to follow up the government request in the Constitutional Court and present the required defense and submissions in a way that he sees fit."

The resolution pointed out that the speaker "could entrust whom he choose from the members, the lawyers who volunteered to defend the case, or others, and inform the assembly about the latest developments regarding this issue whenever he sees it necessary."

Last month the Kuwaiti Government submitted a request to the Constitutional Court to rule on the applicability of Article 71 of the Constitution regarding the law decrees enacted during the period when parliamentary life was suspended.

It is worth mentioning that Article 71 of the Constitution stresses that, if during the period separating the sessions of the National Assembly or during the period when the latter has been dissolved, a matter arises that requires the taking of measures that cannot be delayed, the Amir has the authority to issue decrees that will have the power of law on condition that the latter does not contravene the Constitution or the financial estimations mentioned in the financial law.

The article stipulates that "these decrees must be submitted to the National Assembly 15 days after they are issued if the assembly exists, and at the first parliamentary meeting if there is no assembly at the time, or if the parliamentary session has already ended. Consequently, if these decrees are not submitted they will lose retroactively the force of the law they had without the need for a resolution on the matter."

The article says that "if these decrees are submitted and are not approved by the assembly they will lose retroactively the force of the law they had only if the assembly considers that they were previously in force, or if it decides to resolve their effects in a different way [as received]."

The government says that Article 71 applies only to the decrees that are issued when there is no assembly, and that this is in line with with the terms of the Constitution. It adds that the controversial decrees were issued in a different situation, in other words, "when the life of the parliament was suspended on an Amiri order that provides for a transfer of the legislative power to his highness the amir and the Council of Ministers in circumstances that only the amir considers to be exceptional. The order will remain in force as long as these circumstances prevail."

For their part, the deputies say that the National Assembly has the right to examine these decrees as this has now become a constitutional practice since 1981 when a "political agreement" is reached between the assembly and the government. This agreement allows the assembly to examine these decrees in accordance with Article 71 of the Constitution.

The deputies contend that the assembly of 1981 and the assembly of 1992 examined over 1,000 decrees and that consequently, they must continue to examine the remaining decrees that were issued when the life of the parliament was suspended from July 1986 to October 1992.

Oman

Government Condemns 'Heinous Episode' in Oklahoma

JN2204135195 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Information has condemned the bombing that has taken place in Oklahoma City. The source said the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus regrets the fact that innocent victims have fallen in this heinous episode.

The source went on to say that the Sultanate of Oman—government and people—strongly condemns and denounces all kinds and forms of violence regardless of the motives entailed and whoever perpetrates it, given the fact that terrorism is a chronic illness that is currently disintegrating the fabric of modern communities and jeopardizing social peace, which is a prerequisite for life.

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The source urged all peace-loving forces to cooperate among themselves to put an end to all kinds of criminal acts.

Qatar

'Premature Accusations' in U.S. Bombing Criticized

JN2104164495 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, 21 Apr (WAKH)—A Qatari newspaper dealt in its today's editorial with the blast that destroyed a federal building in Oklahoma city, U.S., rejecting premature accusations of Arabs and Muslims of being behind it.

AL-SHARQ newspaper said the blast was strongly denounced, but added that it would be a grave mistake to jump to conclusions about who had been behind it.

Rejecting indications by some U.S. circles which blamed the blast on Arabs and Muslims, AL-SHARQ said finding an easy scapegoat would only serve ends of terrorists.

AL-SHARQ said both Palestinian organizations, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad had done well by announcing their denunciation of the blast and distancing themselves from it.

Those behind the blast would be exposed by fair investigations, not by hints by the U.S. media or some U.S. officials, AL-SHARQ said, adding that: Why couldn't the wrong doers be from Jews, some of the U.S. psychics [as received], or even some American political groups?

Saudi Arabia

'Superficial Theories' on Oklahoma Blast Assailed

MM2104143695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Oklahoma Tragedy: There Is No Justification for Killing Innocent Children, Women, and Men"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The booby-trapped car explosion in Oklahoma, which claimed the lives of scores of people, has focused world lights on the terrorism issue once again. Because the first reaction of any rational person is to completely condemn this cowardly and barbaric action, since there is nothing on earth that justifies murdering innocent children, women, and men. This should be a world principle that applies to every space and time, regardless of where the terror took place.

But while we clearly stress this principle, we must be careful before we point the fingers of accusation.

Any terrorist operation has its own marks just like any other human actions. And over the past decade a science has been developed to study terrorism. On the basis of this science, it can be said that the terror which occurred in Oklahoma City is designed for publicity.

Those planning such operations want before anything else to attract attention, achieve publicity, and focus the lights on their mission.

This is why this factor should be taken into account when we develop a practical theory for any investigation into the incident. However, we must, under all circumstances, be wary of easy or superficial theories.

We also must not permit the deep-rooted grudges that are promoted by people whose interests require falsifying or fabricating the investigation before it even begins.

It is all but certain that the Oklahoma tragedy, which occurred two years after the World Trade Center explosion in New York, is going to send shock waves through U.S. public opinion. And some elements might try to aim the anger triggered by the calamity against certain ethnic or political groups. But U.S. media services and the U.S. Government should be wary of such attempts, which can only obstruct efforts to reveal the truth.

People living in big cities throughout the world have for some years been living with the fear of terrorist attacks. But a small, quiet, romantic city like Oklahoma seldom experiences such attacks.

Maybe one thing the Oklahoma incident points to is that a victory over terrorism can only be achieved through sincere international cooperation—which has not happened yet, because every state insists on pursuing its own policy.

The U.S. Government announced in the late eighties that the war against terrorism was among the top priorities of its world policy. But nothing much has occurred since then to develop the philosophy and mechanisms needed to tackle this threat.

Israel Too Quick To Link Oklahoma Bomb With Arabs

LD2104162195 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, April 21, SPA—Arabic-language dailies published in the Kingdom today commented editorially on the quick effective measures to combat illegal drugs in Saudi Arabia, Prince Nayif's statements at the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] interior ministers meeting and the Iraqi rejection of Resolution 986. [passage omitted]

Jeddah based AL-MADINAH said the Oklahoma bombing was an irrational act perpetrated by extremely idiotic criminals who have not got a drop of goodness in them. It said the honesty of U.S. investigators has kept them from pointing accusation fingers at anybody so far, but Israeli parties and some pro-Zionist mass media were quick to link these ugly incidents with Arab or

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Islamic terrorists. The paper stressed the Arab and Islamic communities' rejection of the generalization methods adopted by the Jewish state.

"The Oklahoma incidents are horrible, but Israel's intended jumping of the U.S. investigations is yet another conspiracy in a series of conspiracies led by the Zionist mind against Islam and Muslims to achieve conspicuous goals," AL-MADINAH added. [passage omitted]

Australian Trade Minister Reviews Export Potential

LD2304191095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 23 Apr—Australian Trade Minister Bob McMullan has expressed his pleasure at visiting the Kingdom and meeting several of its officials.

In a press statement following a luncheon given in his honor by the Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah, he expressed his hope that his visit will contribute toward boosting and consolidating trade ties between his country and the Kingdom.

He urged businessmen in the Kingdom to visit Australia to familiarize themselves with investment opportunities in his country, stressing, in this context, the depth of trade relations between his country and the Kingdom.

He pointed out that the potential for export to his country has become stronger due to political changes that have taken place in South Africa and some Indian Ocean regions.

He said that his talks in the Kingdom have included joint investment between several Saudi companies and Australia, and he said that joint investment opportunities in his country will be subject to the rules and conditions that exist there.

The Australian trade minister commended the idea of holding Australian fairs in the Kingdom, and stressed that various Australian companies will take part in these fairs to acquaint the Saudi consumer with the distinctive features of Australian products.

The Australian trade minister said that all Australian exports to the Kingdom will conform to agreements reached, and they will be in good conditions, and suited to the requirements of the Saudi market.

He added that the size of trade exchanges between his country and the Kingdom had increased by a large percentage, and expressed his hope that it increases further in the near future.

Yemen

UN Envoy Outlines 'Weaknesses' in NPT Treaty

JN2204093695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother 'Abdallah Salih al-Ashtal, our country's permanent representative to the United Nations, has stressed that the convocation of the international conference on assessing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] at this stage is of extreme importance. He said the conference provides a historic opportunity to assess the experience of this unique treaty. He said that 25 years after the launching of the NPT, the conference provides a good opportunity to the parties to assess commitments and obligations, the extent to which the treaty has been implemented, and the difficulties that it has faced.

In our country's address delivered yesterday at the international conference on reviewing and renewing the NPT at the UN headquarters, brother al-Ashtal said that despite the broad objectives it sought to achieve, the NPT included some gaps and weaknesses, most important of which being the inequality of responsibilities and commitments shouldered by nonnuclear states in comparison with the privileges granted by the NPT for nuclear states.

Our country's permanent representative to the United Nations regretted that no positive developments have occurred regarding setting up a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East despite the new favorable developments in international relations, the current peace process, and the efforts being made to establish such a zone. He urged the international community to agree on effective and feasible measures to guarantee the security of nonnuclear states in this important region of the world. He urged the international community to pressure Israel into joining the NPT and bring its installations under inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He said that the Republic of Yemen believes that security guarantees for nonnuclear states is one of those states' legitimate rights and that such guarantees must be unconditional and unrestricted. He said that in this respect, Yemen agrees with the nonaligned states, provided that such guarantees be in the form of a legally-binding international treaty including comprehensive security guarantees and clear and explicit assurances taking into consideration the developing nations' security concerns, especially in light of the absence of equality in rights and obligations. He said that recent UN Security Council Resolution 984 does not meet the rights of nonnuclear states for conditional guarantees within a legally-binding international multiparty treaty.

Concluding his speech, brother al-Ashtal said that as a developing country carrying out comprehensive economic and political reforms wishes and seeks to achieve regional peace and security.

President Salih, King Fahd View Regional Issues

JN2104204595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, held a telephone conversation today. They discussed issues and developments of interest to the two sisterly countries as well as regional and Arab developments.

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Spokesman Criticizes Turkish Contacts With Rebels

JN2204115795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—Iraq has stressed that the dangers resulting from the abnormal situation in northern Iraq can only be confronted through cooperation and constructive and open dialogue with the legitimate authority in Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, Saturday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the repeated dispatch of Turkish Foreign Ministry delegations to northern Iraq to meet with Iraqi Kurdish rebels there shows the extent of Turkey's persistence in violating Iraq's sovereignty and good-neighborly relations. This is despite Iraqi warnings that such official Turkish contacts with outlaws on the territory of an independent state encourages those outlaws to persist in disobedience and rebellion against the legitimate authority, and constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman was commenting on statements made by Ferhat Ataman, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman, on 19 April in which he noted that two Turkish Foreign Ministry diplomats would soon head for northern Iraq to meet with traitor Talabani.

The spokesman added that Turkey's persistence in this course proves that it has not learned from past lessons on the futility of such contacts with outlaws who quickly dishonor their commitments.

Dailies Condemn Turkish Rebel Contacts in North

Turkish 'Frustration' Predicted

JN2404093595 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 24, INA—An Iraqi daily has said the Turkish Government will reap only more frustration and disappointment from maintaining direct contacts with Iraqi Kurdish rebels in the north.

In an editorial on Monday, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said the Ankara government is doing harm to its relations with Iraq. And this means less opportunities for cooperation, understanding and mutual confidence between the two countries in the future, said AL-THAWRAH.

It stressed that the Turkish Government would not have made this grave mistake and endanger a basic part of its relations with Iraq had it not been for the U.S. plan to turn Turkey into a center for escalating chaos in the region, sowing destruction and division that would keep states and peoples in a state of tension, weakness and constant strife that would open the way for all-out American intervention.

The paper quoted a lecture in Ankara by Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbot who called for cooperation between the Turkish Government and the hirelings of northern Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH said Talbot has not given any idea about how would Ankara free itself of the relation with rebel Iraqi Kurds once the situation in the north was back to normal.

Turkey Urged To Evacuate 'Hammer Force'

JN2204130895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has urged the Turkish Government to beware of a U.S. scheme to establish a separatist entity in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey. The paper says that the scheme is being implemented by the Hammer Force under the pretext of carrying out a humanitarian mission.

In its editorial today, the paper urges the Ankara officials to wake up from the dreams of U.S. promises of financial support. It says that since the era of late President Turgut Ozal, Turkish officials have been awaiting the flow of billions of U.S. dollars into their treasury as a reward for their participation in the aggression. However, the Turkish treasury is still empty although over four years have passed since the war against Iraq.

The paper advises the Ankara officials to evacuate the foreign troops from their territory in order to stop the security deterioration caused by the Hammer Force, whose acts of feeding strife and supporting separatist movements have been exposed by several Turkish and foreign parties. The paper says the evacuation of those troops would allow the restoration of normalcy to the region which, before the presence of the foreign troops, witnessed extensive progress, prosperity, and economic and commercial relations with Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ contends that U.S. Administration officials are trying to keep Turkey immersed in the illusions of false U.S. promises in order to continue using Turkey as one of the tools for implementing the imperialist-Zionist strategy in the region. The paper refers to the contradiction between the recent statements made by Strobe Talbott, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and the bloody situation in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey.

Talbott delivered a lecture at the Turkish Blikent University last week. In his lecture, Talbott attempted to describe the mission of the Hammer Force as humanitarian in nature. He also tried to deceive Turkish officials and convince them of the usefulness of the presence of those troops on their territory.

The paper describes Talbott's allegations as malicious, deceptive, haughty, and arrogant. The paper asks: What protection and what security guarantees do the Kurdish citizens have in northern Iraq, or the Turkish citizens on

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the other side of the border? The paper notes that the region is experiencing the worst era in its history amid scenes and practices of killing, death, robbery, crime, disorder, and insecurity. [passage omitted]

Former Intelligence Chief on Opposition Moves

MM2104142695 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 3-9 Apr 95 pp 20-21

[Interview with Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Military Intelligence, by Zaki Shihab "at his headquarters in Northern Iraq"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shihab] Doubts are being cast, even by some of your allies in the opposition, about the extent of the military operations carried out by the Iraqi opposition against Iraqi Government forces. What is actually happening and what effect has the Turkish military operation against the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] in northern Iraq had on your activities?

[Al-Samarra'i] I can say that following the 1991 uprising, the activities of the Iraqi opposition eased and the conditions gave an almost negative picture of the opposition's activity in fighting the regime in Baghdad. The situation remained so for quite a long time. But since my arrival in the northern region less than four months ago, I endeavored to reactivate the political and military situations, as it was very essential that we should act. This is because the people inside Iraq began to blame the opposition outside Iraq and to ask, where is the opposition?

In fact, in the past, we faced some obstacles, most of which we managed to overcome. Then, at the beginning of last March, it was the fourth anniversary of the March 1991 uprising. So it was essential that a major and effective operation be carried out to give the opposition a prominent role. Thus plans were drawn up for large-scale operations internally in general, and in addition to some specific operations in some well-known sectors. But due to certain interventions, some of the internal operations were postponed while operations in other directions were carried out. We gave the name of 4 March to these operations. This is the preliminary stage of the 4 March Uprising.

[Shihab] What exactly do these operations involve?

[Al-Samarra'i] These operations involve penetration and deployment within the ranks of the armed forces sectors which are still under Saddam's authority. So far, we have succeeded in fragmenting the 38th Infantry Squad, the 1st al-Maghawir Brigade, the 104th Infantry Brigade of the 15th division, the mechanized infantry regiment of the 1st Mechanized Division, two tank battalions, and three or four artillery battalions. Large quantities of weapons have been seized and will play an important role in our future operations. Furthermore, over 600 soldiers have been liberated. The operations are still continuing.

[Shihab] What is your aim in all this?

[Al-Samarra'i] We have political, military, and moral targets. Our political objectives include, among others, bringing pressure to bear on the regime and embarrassing the countries which have begun to be inclined toward it, because of their ambition to get to Iraqi oil.

[Shihab] Some people describe your operations as being a mere cover for the inter-Kurdish internecine fighting in northern Iraq. What do you say about that?

[Al-Samarra'i] The Turkish description of the battles as mere skirmishes is a grave mistake. The arena of fighting is open and anyone who wishes to verify things may come and see for himself.

[Shihab] What about the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq?

[Al-Samarra'i] It is directed against the Turkish PKK. The Turkish forces have entered Zakhu and spread in other areas. But they are still far from the Iraqi opposition's field of operations and so they have no effect on us.

[Shihab] But some opposition circles have been describing your statements as somewhat exaggerated?

[Al-Samarra'i] God willing, you will be hearing pleasant news in the next few days about major operations. I categorically affirm that the information we disseminate is 100 percent true.

[Shihab] You declared that you were about to occupy Kirkuk and some other cities. But nothing of the sort has happened.

[Al-Samarra'i] We pursue a specific strategy aimed at penetration and disbursement with a view to fragmenting the forces which are under the authority of President Saddam Husayn, disarming and liberating as many as possible of the military, and boosting morale inside Iraq.

[Shihab] Do you not consider your war against the regime in Baghdad as a war between a fly and an elephant?

[Al-Samarra'i] This is an important question. So far, we have succeeded in removing two divisions from the battle, in a record time of only two weeks. Iraq never suffered such losses in such a short time during its war with Iran. With the passage of time, we shall succeed, by our strategy, in stripping the regime of large military sectors.

[Shihab] How many divisions does the Iraqi Army consist of?

[Al-Samarra'i] It consists of about 20 divisions.

[Shihab] According to some information, an attempt was made to stage a coup against Saddam but it failed. Was there really a coup plan?

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[Al-Samarra'i] The fact of the matter is that we have not made an abortive coup attempt. We have only postponed the carrying out of large-scale operations inside the Iraqi armed forces. Thank God, we have not lost one single soldier or one single officer.

[Shihab] Do you think Saddam expects you to stage a coup against him?

[Al-Samarra'i] No. But it would be wrong to think that the regime is strong. It does not know from which direction the blows will hit it. What can Saddam Husayn say, when the speaker here [i.e. Al-Samarra'i himself] was previously his chief of intelligence and he had awarded him medals and given him 10 cars and a helicopter to use in his movements, yet this speaker has nevertheless joined the ranks of the opposition? How will he then view those who had smaller roles [in his regime]?

[Shihab] You are talking about your role in the opposition. Why did you stay all those years as director of military intelligence in Baghdad and only join the opposition four months ago?

[Al-Samarra'i] In fact, I was in the opposition since 1970. We were a political organization hostile to Saddam's regime. But our methods of action differed and so did our capabilities. When Saddam enjoyed the support of major powers, the opposition could not have a basic role to play. But in recent years, I embarked on an act of struggle against Saddam and I was in contact with the opposition inside and outside Iraq.

[Shihab] Which opposition leaders did you have contacts with? What did you do to serve the opposition's interests when you occupied your post at the head of military intelligence?

[Al-Samarra'i] We do not stage terrorist operations. But we were in close contact with the armed forces and with some operations which time will prove how effective they were. I was in contact with the opposition, and these are certified and documented facts. I am now one of the prominent figures of the opposition, a matter which proves my link with the opposition.

[Shihab] There were reports in the past few years of a number of attempted coups having been staged against the regime in Baghdad. Which is the most important of these attempts?

[Al-Samarra'i] I personally have not staged any attempted coups. But there were attempted coups such as that of the late Lieutenant General Raji al-Takriti and that of Flight Maj. Gen. Muhammad Mazlum, the commander of the al-Bakr Airbase, and some others. But these brothers, may God bless their souls, did not take sufficient security precautions to ensure the success of their operations. So the regime's security department used to uncover their attempts before they could stage them. But as far as we are concerned, we know the regime's plans and know how to avoid its traps.

[Shihab] How did the regime come to know about the movements of the leaders of these attempted coups?

[Al-Samarra'i] Telephone tapping has played an essential part. The regime succeeded in listening to the conversations between the people concerned, their chats and their irresponsible exchanges.

[Shihab] Is it true that the regime learned about one such attempt through a foreign power?

[Al-Samarra'i] I am not convinced of this, not because I wish to defend these countries but to defend the peoples. The regime has disseminated these rumors so that anyone contemplating staging an operation against the regime would think a thousand times about the immense international support Saddam receives.

[Shihab] You stated recently that the Iraqi Government has succeeded in resuming its production of chemical weapons and in concealing long-range missiles of the Scud and al-Husayn types in an area close to Salah al-Din city near Takrit. How true is this?

[Al-Samarra'i] I have told the inspectors, members of the competent UN Security Council Committee, that the regime continues to possess Scud and al-Husayn missiles. As a result of our deliberations, we came to the conclusion that the regime possesses between 45 and 55 long-range missiles and about 200 bacteria containers as well as chemical and nuclear research studies.

[Shihab] Have you provided the UN Committee with the names of the areas in which these weapons were hidden?

[Al-Samarra'i] We told them all we knew. During the last visit of Rolf Ekeus, the regime provided the UN Committee with some information about its bacterial activities. We understood that in the past, the regime failed to provide such information.

[Shihab] Where does the regime hide all these weapons despite the search operations?

[Al-Samarra'i] There are gaps. Prior to its arrival in Baghdad, the UN Committee sends a list containing the names and specializations of its inspectors. So the regime used to take precautions. This was why I suggested to them that they not divulge the names and missions of their inspectors.

[Shihab] Why do you voluntarily reveal information about weapons which are in the final analysis the property of the Iraqi people?

[Al-Samarra'i] We have no need of these weapons, which have brought us nothing but devastation and enmity. Besides, we expect that Saddam would use these weapons against the Iraqi people and even against neighboring countries.

[Shihab] What information do you have about Iraq's nuclear weapons?

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[Al-Samarra'i] My information about nuclear weapons is limited. But I say that the regime has not been truthful.

[Shihab] But you have said that you knew minute details about French-Iraqi nuclear cooperation. What do you say to that?

[Al-Samarra'i] Some Iraqi intelligence officers used to fly to southern France aboard Ilyushin military planes and return with nuclear reactors and other accessories from there.

[Shihab] Who played a prominent role in this matter?

[Al-Samarra'i] Some officers from my department took part, such as Lt. Col. Hammud Nayif Ibrahim and Lt. Col. Kamal Husayn al- 'Ani.

[Shihab] When did Iraqi nuclear activity reach its peak?

[Al-Samarra'i] In 1978.

[Shihab] What was the role of the military intelligence department at the time when the regime had numerous security mechanisms?

[Al-Samarra'i] The duty of my department was to collect information about the neighboring countries and northern Iraq as well as about some other world countries.

[Shihab] Was this task directly connected with Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Samarra'i] Of course it was connected with him, as well as with the private secretary of the president of the Republic, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, the present minister of information. The post of private secretary to the president of the Republic is now occupied by 'Abd-al-Hamid. The Directorate of Intelligence is now attached to the Ministry of Defense and thus its contacts with the presidency have now become limited.

[Shihab] When was the last time you met with Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Samarra'i] About a year ago, when I was transferred from the post of director of military intelligence to the post of director of the Presidential Office, which was a sort of freezing of activity for me.

[Shihab] What was the reason for this?

[Al-Samarra'i] I do not know, perhaps it was because of lack of confidence in me.

[Shihab] Why do you refuse to name the opposition leader you were in contact with before you joined the opposition?

[Al-Samarra'i] I have been in contact with brothers Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani for about two years, and that was by virtue of my intelligence activities in the region. We used to discuss the best ways to promote the role of the opposition.

[Shihab] Since the Gulf crisis, there has been a great deal of talk about the collapse of the regime, which is still standing fast. What is the secret behind this steadfastness?

[Al-Samarra'i] It is due firstly to the regional contradictions and the effect this has had on the opposition. Secondly it is due to the absence of real support for the opposition. Thirdly, it is due to the failure by the opposition to stage any effective operations. That is why I made it a point that the opposition should embark on operations. Once the operations continue, they will topple Saddam Husayn.

[Shihab] But when will that be?

[Al-Samarra'i] If things go on as they are, then we will be in Baghdad after three months.

[Shihab] But some pillars of the opposition such as Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib and Mas'ud Barzani accuse you and Ahmad Chalabi of unilaterally taking decisions without their participation. What do you say to that?

[Al-Samarra'i] We have coordinated things with them. As to Hasan al-Naqib, as soon as we tell him you are our commander in chief, he would come running. This is the cause of my conflict with Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib. I do not seek any post. We are awaiting him and we do not refuse him as commander in chief. But brother Mas'ud Barzani was dismayed for certain reasons and God willing we all will rally together.

[Shihab] Do you enjoy any Arab or international support?

[Al-Samarra'i] Yes. But I will not delve into details at this stage.

Diplomat Explains Resolution 986 Background

JN2304121595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0902 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—An informed Iraqi diplomat has stressed that Argentina's ambassador at the United nations had no knowledge of the clauses of Resolution 986. He said that Washington and London have chosen the name of Argentina to peddle the essence of Resolutions 706 and 712 through the UN Security Council.

In a report published by the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Dr. Sami al-Sa'dun said that the formulas of Resolution 986 and the amendments which were made to it during the consultations which were held 10-13 April were openly printed on the paper of the British UN mission, and not on the paper of Argentina's mission which was entrusted with presenting the issue to the UN Security Council.

He noted that what supported the belief of most of participants in the deliberations that Washington and London were behind the resolution and not Buenos

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Aires was that Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations could not conceal the fact that he was discussing an issue which was written for him, not something which he himself prepared.

The Iraqi diplomat added: Embarrassment was clear through the Argentine representative's behavior during every discussion. He even became a laughing stock for some UN Security Council members.

He said: British Representative David Hannay and U.S. Representative Madeleine Albright defended the resolution more than any other UN Security Council members. They also rejected any amendments to the resolution. This proves that the resolution belongs to Washington and London, and not to Argentina.

He drew attention to Hannay's suspicious and abnormal movement among the UN Security Council member states throughout the four days of discussion. He said: The objective of the game of presenting the resolution in the name of Argentina and its adoption by a state such as Oman is clear and aimed at deluding the public opinion by showing that neutral states have presented the resolution, something which gives it special importance and a humanitarian nature and keeps it far from political objectives. So, if Iraq rejects it, it will be criticized by others.

The Iraqi diplomat said that Albright and Hannay insisted on presenting the resolution for voting as soon as possible despite the rejection of the amendments made to it by the Iraqi delegation which was led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and despite the fact that other Security Council members were convinced of the Iraqi delegation's viewpoint.

Dr. Sa'dun said that the Iraqi delegation called on the UN Security Council to wait before submitting the resolution for voting until after the Easter holiday so it would not suffer the same fate as Resolutions 706 and 712, and to give chance to hold further discussion and to make substantial amendments to it.

He added: Contrary to all other UN Security Council members, the representatives of the United States and Britain insisted on voting on the resolution on Thursday, 13 April, or Friday morning, 14 April, which was Good Friday of the Easter holidays.

The Iraqi diplomat stressed that discussions on Resolution 986 could have been postponed even beyond Friday had there been good intentions and objectives, especially since it was not a resolution which deals with an urgent issue, such as a raging war, and that it had a declared humanitarian objective.

The Iraqi diplomat spoke about an action which completely conflicts with the resolution and served the U.S.-British tendency of expediting the voting on Resolution 986; namely, that Madeleine Albright forced the UN Security Council member states to postpone discussion of several important issues on the Council's agenda, such as Ekeus' report which was postponed three times, and a resolution on the renewal of truce and cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Sami Sa'dun shed light on the objectives of the media campaign which coincided with the discussion of the resolution, which claimed that Iraq had accepted Resolution 986 even before it was presented to the UN Security Council for discussion.

The Iraqi diplomat said that the U.S. and Western media and some UN Security Council members were used to leak rumors and claim that Iraq had accepted the resolution. In addition to disinformation and deception, he said, that was aimed to instigate other parties, like the oil states and oil merchants, to make them move each according to his own interests, something which was reflected on the drafting of the resolution and the haste to put it to the vote.

Sa'dun noted that Iraq had rejected the U.S.-British draft, which was presented as an Argentine draft, even before it was submitted for review by the UN Security Council. The rejection was based on the fact that the draft carried the essence of Resolutions 706 and 712 which harm Iraq's sovereignty and vital interests.

It is noteworthy that before departing for New York on 3 April, Tariq 'Aziz told INA that Iraq rejects the new draft which is based on Resolutions 706 and 712, but he said that Iraq would not close the door before efforts to produce a resolution that fully responds to the worries of the Iraqi people over the ill intentions toward Iraq of those who drafted the resolution.

The Iraqi diplomat indicated that in order not to be accused of rejecting a resolution of a humanitarian nature, and to explain to the UN Security Council members the reality of what was behind the U.S.-British enthusiasm about issuing the resolution, the Iraqi delegation intensified its activity and met more than once with all Council members, except for the U.S. representative, who was infuriated by the Iraqi delegation's moves.

The diplomat regretted the issuance of a resolution contravening Iraq's sovereign and vital interests with some cosmetic amendments exploited by the United States to show false flexibility and win the votes of the UN Security Council members who showed initial reservations about the resolution.

Dr. Sami Sa'dun discussed a dangerous precedent in Resolution 986, represented by specifying the kind of relationship that should exist between two neighboring countries. Under the resolution, he said, Iraq would be forced to export the larger quantity of oil through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. He said that the danger of this unprecedented condition is that the UN Security Council has allowed itself to interfere in the domestic affairs of a country and to impose the kind of relationship with a neighboring country.

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The Iraqi diplomat stressed that the long-term danger posed by this resolution is represented by the fact that it would mean that the UN Security Council has the right to specify Iraq's relationship with other neighboring countries, like Iran and Jordan, in accordance with the whims and interests of certain UN Security Council member states.

He stressed that the resolution seriously seeks to undermine Iraq's sovereignty, loot its funds, recognize an abnormal situation in northern Iraq, and reward the agent rebels and Turkey for its stand on Iraq.

Dr. Sami Sa'dun noted that in connection with this latest point, Turkey's UN representative was present throughout the duration of the debate over the draft of Resolution 986.

INC Demands Implementation of Resolution 986

LD2104134795 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1048 GMT 21 Apr 95

[Statement by Aziz Ailyan, member of the INC Executive Council; place and date not given: "INC Demands Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 986"—received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London (21 April)—The Iraqi National Congress [INC] deeply regrets the Iraqi regime's decision to reject UN Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and expresses its profoundest sympathies for all Iraqis still subjected to Saddam's continuing tyranny.

With a single stroke of his pen, a chorus of compliant ministers, and the rubber stamp of parliamentary committee, Saddam has once again denied our people the slightest relief from their suffering.

The regime's rejection of resolution 986—on the grounds of national sovereignty—is both unconscionable and illogical. How can the Iraqi people's suffering, from which Saddam and his inner circle are totally immune, be less important than their sloganistic invocation of "national sovereignty"; a sovereignty which Saddam is willing to trade to keep his regime in power.

This rejection must be seen by the international community for what it truly is: the final and incontrovertible proof that the regime is using hunger and deprivation as a weapon against the Iraqi people. Saddam uses food and medicine to reward the small circle around him while he denies any supplies to the great majority of people in central Iraq and all the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and southern Iraq. This distorted system can only function without the "equitable distribution" envisaged by paragraph 8 of resolution 986 and it is for this reason that the regime has categorically rejected it.

The Iraqi National Congress demands that Iraq implement resolution 986 on purely humanitarian grounds. The international community must not allow the regime to continue denying the Iraqi people the relief offered by resolutions 706, 712, and now 986. The fact that this resolution was passed unanimously by the Security Council demonstrates the broad international consensus on the best way forward. Only by the Security Council now insisting on the full implementation of 986 will Saddam's treachery be stopped.

Saddam Receives Cuban Officials, Castro Letter

JN2304162995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn has received Benigno Perez, Cuban deputy foreign minister, and (Raul Angle Parthaga), chief of the Africa and Middle East Department at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Benigno conveyed to his excellency a letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

During the meeting, the Cuban deputy foreign minister stressed the support of Cuba's Government and people for Iraq in its just struggle against the unfair blockade. He also demanded the immediate implementation of Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al- Sahhaf.

Russian Energy Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN2404072395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2014 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and energy in the Russian Federation, arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last for several days.

The delegation comprises Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister; Yins Bilskiy [name as transliterated], deputy fuel and energy minister; and Vladimir Krachir [name as transliterated], deputy foreign economic relations minister. The delegation will hold official talks with Iraqi officials on ways to boost mutual cooperation in the oil and industrial fields.

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Peres on Nuclear Arms, Nonproliferation

MM2104133295 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16-22 Apr 95 pp 43-47

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mahir Shalabi in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shalabi] Israel is still refusing to confirm or deny its possession of nuclear weapons. And it says that it will not be the first state in the region to use [ta'rid] nuclear weapons. But the world knows—especially after Mordekhay Vanunu revealed the size of the Israeli nuclear arsenal to the London newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES—that Israel is a major nuclear state. What is Israel's pretext for building this nuclear arsenal?

[Peres] Israel is seeking to [join] and safeguard the treaty. But before Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and disarms itself, it wants to ensure that there are no dangers or wars threatening it. For example, if Iran is contemplating destroying Israel, there is a clear message from Israel representing a deterrent to the other side whenever it considers such an action. I believe that when we talk about the universality of the treaty in the world, we must also talk about the universality of peace. Because peace and nuclear weapons are like a two-story building: The first is peace and the second is the nuclear threat. It is not possible to tackle the second floor before starting to tackle the first. This applies completely to the security issue.

[Shalabi] Israel's justification for its possession of nuclear weapons is its fear of the Arabs' numerical superiority and Iraq's and Iran's development of nuclear weapons. How do you view these two states in this context?

[Peres] Israel has never announced that it does or does not possess nuclear weapons. But Israel clearly announces its concern over the fact that Iran is working to purchase and develop its nuclear capabilities. Iraq too is making similar attempts. After five wars, we do not want to be taken by surprise.

[Shalabi] What is Israel's position on the NPT, which the United States is eager to extend for an unlimited period in April? And will you sign?

[Peres] As I said, we will sign when there is peace. What is the meaning of our signing a treaty while there are parties which are going to sign, or have already signed, but which do not respect the UN Charter, which does not allow for the destruction of one state by another? What value is the signature if the signatory state does not respect these international charters? What value is the signature of Iran and its government? It is of no value.

[Shalabi] What is Israel's position on the insistence by Egypt and some other Arab states on not signing the NPT before Israel signs, or at least before it pledges to sign at a later stage?

[Peres] We have never requested Egypt to sign. They set the conditions. Egypt's signing is an issue between it and the United States. As far as we are concerned, the nonsigning issue is something between us and Iran and has nothing to do with Egypt. We signed a peace agreement with Egypt. It stipulated the return of all the land, and we returned the land. The agreement did not stipulate nuclear policy. And the distance between the Dimona reactor and Egypt when we signed the Camp David accords is still the same and has not changed. We are in harmony with Egypt and do not see any reason for its concern at our capabilities, because there is a basic agreement between us.

[Shalabi] Is Israel prepared to relinquish its nuclear arsenal under a comprehensive peace?

[Peres] Of course, if there is peace, and if the 24 Arab states—in addition to Iran—agree to stop the war policy and lift the boycott, then we would sign.

[Shalabi] Would Israel accept relinquishing its nuclear weapons in return for U.S. guarantees?

[Peres] We will not need guarantees if we sign. Everything would be subject to neutral inspection.

[Shalabi] Do you believe that nuclear technology is available to Egypt through strong financial support from Arab states?

[Peres] It is not my job to judge. If the Arab states have a surplus of money, I believe it is incumbent on them to support and help the Palestinians a little. As is known, world Jewry helped and supported the State of Israel. I will not be able to understand the Arab states' failure to help the Palestinian entity.

[Shalabi] Many people said that Golda Me'ir ordered nuclear weapons to be made ready when the Egyptian Army crossed the Suez Canal and penetrated deep into Sinai. With regard to Iraq and Iran, Iraq no longer has a nuclear program, and observers believe that recent U.S. statements on Iran's nuclear program are exaggerated and designed to put pressure on Iran to get it to sign the treaty. What does Israel fear from these two states?

[Peres] We are putting pressure on no one. Iran, its government, and its president have clearly announced their desire to destroy the State of Israel. And as is known, it is possible to destroy a state, but not necessarily by using nuclear weapons. We saw what happened in Rwanda. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. What do we want? We want a peace policy. Then we would be able to guarantee the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. But if there is a policy of terror and wars, what is the significance of their signing the agreement? It means nothing to us. We respect the signatures of honorable people. But if there is a state using deception and lies, what is the significance of its signature?

[Shalabi] There are precedents in the world in which nuclear states—such as South Africa, Argentina, and

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numerous republics of the former Soviet Union—abandoned their nuclear weapons. In what circumstances would Israel be prepared to abandon its nuclear weapons?

[Peres] We must obtain peace. No one is threatening South Africa's existence, no one is threatening Argentina's existence, and no one is threatening Egypt's existence. The only state in the world which is always threatened—and openly—is Israel. So our position is different.

[Shalabi] What is Israel's philosophy vis-a-vis the use of the bomb? Is it prepared to use it as a protective measure, or is it going to use it when it feels that the Hebrew state's entity is threatened with annihilation?

[Peres] We have not announced the existence of a nuclear bomb, so what is the point of talking about using one? I do not believe there is any need to make threats. You say that anyone who wants peace should not be worried. Let me add here that the time has come for those who are still living in the world of darkness and the world of yesterday—if they want to serve their people and provide food for their children, and if they want to be part of the 21st century—to abandon those bad tricks, terrorism, and wars and become members of the family aspiring to peace and prosperity, that is, for all peoples without discrimination among Arabs, Jews, or others, regardless of their identity.

Beilin: High Time for Breakthrough With Syria

AU2004111395 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 20 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Beilin Urges al-Asad To Make Progress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna—According to Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, time is pressing for a breakthrough in his country's talks with Syria. In 1995, definite progress must be achieved in the peace talks, because in 1996 elections are due both in Israel and the United States, explained Beilin during a brief visit to Vienna on Wednesday [19 April].

In Vienna, Beilin also wants to make use of Austrian politicians' "good contacts" with Syria and involve Austria as a mediator just as previously. He sees no more problems between Austria and Israel: "Relations are close once again."

So far, Beilin has not seen Al-Asad display any genuine desire for peace. "If he wants to pursue the path toward peace, he certainly does not show it," Beilin said. "Hopefully, the 'window of opportunity' [preceding three words in English] will not shut itself without having been used, because there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Syria." Beilin regretted to say that owing to a lack of interest on the part of Syria, he is not going to hold any talks with Syrian politicians during his stay in Vienna. Syria is "very timid" and prefers indirect talks, he claimed.

However, the Israeli deputy foreign minister did not present any new Israeli position vis-a-vis Syria. He quoted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as saying that Israel is prepared to withdraw to the Golan Heights, which were occupied in 1967 and annexed in 1981, but this must occur parallel to a pact with Syria. Nevertheless, the future border between Israel and Syria is "non-negotiable," said Beilin. On the other hand, Syria insists on a complete Israeli pullout from Golan and the restoration of that region's full sovereignty before any peace accord is concluded with Israel.

According to Beilin, the peace process with the Palestinians cannot be undone, for neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians have any other possibility. He did not wish to make any definite remarks about the future status of the Gaza strip and West Bank. He said that, personally, he favors a confederation with Jordan. In any case, Gaza and the West Bank would be under "Arab sovereignty." He described the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian areas as a mistake; in no way will these settlements determine the future borders.

Beilin rejected criticism from Arab countries for Israel's failure to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. "Iran and Iraq have both signed the treaty, but still do not feel bound by its provisions," he said.

The Israeli Labor Party, belonging to a coalition with smaller parties, should not let itself be influenced by the 1996 elections to the Israeli parliament (Knesset), said Beinin. "It is more important to conclude peace than to win elections," he said.

Peres' Golan Remarks Viewed as Calculated 'Maneuver'

TA2104132695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Apr 95 p 5

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "A Classic Peres Maneuver"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' "slip of the tongue" with regard to a possible Israeli pullback to the international border with Syria was a classic Peres strategy designed to enable him to both have his cake and eat it too.

With one remark, Peres prepared the Israeli public for the expected scope of withdrawal on the Golan Heights, delivered an important signal to the Syrian leadership, and placed himself at the forefront of negotiations with Damascus—while at the same time denying he had said anything new. Peres feels that Israel must attain an agreement with Syria before starting negotiations on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians—this, out of concern that the thorny issue of Jerusalem will be dragged into the haggling process with Damascus.

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Sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin say the premier "is dying" to reach an accord with the Syrians, among other reasons because he fears that the negotiations with the Palestinians will soon run aground, if this is not already the case.

Several months ago, Rabin relaxed his exclusive hold over the Syrian track and gave Peres limited room to present new ideas to the Americans and to search for ways to establish discreet and direct contacts with the Syrian leadership.

Peres is making the most of his newfound freedom, but has been careful not to cross Rabin's red lines. The prime minister's thundering silence indicates that Peres' latest remarks did not overstep the permissible boundaries.

When Peres was kept away from the negotiations with Syria, he used to "gripe" about the Syrian president and how stubborn al-Asad was. Now that he is in on the act, Peres is doing his best to coax al-Asad out of his shell. People critical of the foreign minister say that al-Asad should "not be awarded any gifts" because instead of trying to reciprocate in a similar vein, the Syrian leader only asks for more. The problem is that those who are supportive of the foreign minister are also unsure of whether or not the political risks Peres is taking are falling on deaf ears in Damascus.

Rabin Rejects PA-Opposition Pact Excluding West Bank

TA2304124995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in Hebron today that he repudiates any agreement on suspending terror between the Palestinian Authority on the one hand and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad on the other unless it includes Judaea and Samaria and the Green Line boundaries.

Speaking at a news conference that concluded his tour of the Hebron area, the prime minister said he would take a grave view of the release of Hamas activists who had been involved in terrorist operations.

He lauded the security forces, whose outstanding performance gave the country a terror-free Passover festival.

Mr. Rabin was briefed on the liquidation of a Hamas squad last week and discussed security matters with Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlement leaders.

Arab Leaders Denounce 'Assault' on Islam

TA2204124295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, have issued a joint communique strongly denouncing the assault on and defamation campaign against the Arab world and Islam in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing. According to them, this is an indication of prejudice and incitement against Arabs and Muslims. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Rabin Message to Clinton on Oklahoma Blast 'Mistake'

TA2204181295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the developments in Oklahoma City, sources in Jerusalem admitted this evening that the prime minister made a mistake when, shortly after the bombing, he sent a message to President Clinton describing it as an international terror incident.

Rabin, Netanyahu on U.S. Stand on 'Terror'

TA2304071695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin thinks the Americans can teach us how to unite against terror rather than exploit it in domestic strife, but Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu rejoins that what the Americans have taught us is that to defeat terror one must fight it.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We are sending our condolences to this great nation, the friend of Israel, the American nation, as well as our esteem and admiration for this nation's fortitude, for its ability to stand firm, to condemn terror, rather than turn it into a issue for internal strife. Therein lies the nation's fortitude, and we should both admire and learn from them.

[Netanyahu] We feel solidarity, respect, and admiration for the American nation's determination to act according to the same principles we had once claimed our own. We have learned that the key to repressing terror and to eventually vanquishing it lies in determination and the refusal to surrender, and above all, in the readiness to fight back. [end recording]

Rabin and Netanyahu made these remarks at the opening of the Moroccan community's festivities in Jerusalem. They were reported by Esti Perez.

Editorial Decries Oklahoma Bombing of Innocents

TA2304110995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Oklahoma Atrocity"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] America will not be the same again, at least not for a long while. The country has endured worse disasters than the Oklahoma City bombing, and it has had its share of mad, wholesale killers and vicious terrorists. But Wednesday was the

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first time a terrorist act of such cold-blooded, indiscriminate brutality, exacting a death toll of 200 men, women, and children, hit middle America. No one can better understand and sympathize with the feelings of Americans at a time like this than the people of Israel.

Not surprisingly, on seeing the pictures from Oklahoma City, Americans compared the horror to Middle Eastern scenes. Using explosives-laden vehicles against civilians has become the region's trademark. Almost half a century ago the Jewish Agency building and Ben-Yehuda Street in Jerusalem were devastated by such cars. Since then, thousands have lost their lives to this device, particularly in Lebanon and Israel. It is the ultimate terrorist weapon, intended to kill massively, indiscriminately, and efficiently, and spread terror, insecurity, and anguish. Americans can hardly be blamed for assuming that Muslim fanatics were responsible for the bombing. The World Trade Center bombing by such fanatics, intended to produce even more casualties, used an identical technique.

If anything can alleviate some of the administration's concern, it is perhaps the news that apparently this heinous crime was committed not by agents of Middle Eastern terrorism, but by local extremists. (The arrested suspect is said to have had a grudge against the federal government, aggravated by the blood-drenched suppression of the Branch Davidian sect in Waco Texas exactly two years ago.) Clearly, the danger from deranged individuals is an incidental, passing phenomenon, while the prospect of a terrorist campaign by Middle Eastern militants constitutes a threat of an open-ended war.

But it may be salutary for governments and media to realize not only that Middle Eastern terror technique are contagious, but that there are acts which no grudges and grievances can justify. Many Americans believe that despite the provocation by cult members, the elimination of the Waco sect, which cost the lives of children, was brutal and obtuse, and used unwarranted, excessive force. And it is all too easy to imagine that when the Oklahoma case comes to trial, the suspect's defense attorney will claim that what triggered the crime was an understandable resentment for the authorities' conduct. Magnified and elaborated, this is the kind of excuse all too many have been making for the slaughterers of schoolchildren, bombers of airliners and buses, and knifers of teenagers. Having endured the bloodiest century in history, civilized society must realize that there are crimes against innocents no grievances can justify, and that the validity and justness of a cause must be measured by the tactics it inspires.

Taiwanese Investments Said Reduced Over Canceled Visit

TA2304113895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (ASAQIM supplement) in Hebrew 23 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by David Lipkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling Kuomintang party's economic conglomerate in Taiwan is looking into the possibility of making do at this stage with a company that invests only several tens of millions of dollars in Israel instead of the $200 million earlier planned.

The government decision to revoke the agreement to permit Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui to make an unofficial visit to Israel was taken as an insult by the president's office and the leadership of the economic conglomerate which was due to centralize the investments. The immediate response was to freeze the plan to buy control of the Mercantile Discount Bank, which was supposed to be the banking institution through which investments in Israel would be channeled. The planned investments reached some $400 million, some of which were to have been sanctioned this year.

Efforts are currently underway to convince the Taiwanese to go ahead with a $70 million deal with the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] to refurbish two Boeing 747's into passenger-cargo planes. If the IAI does not receive the project, which assures employment for hundreds of workers, it will go to Boeing.

Taiwan's deputy economic minister is due to visit Israel this week. He will come with an economic delegation looking into the possibility of making deals. He will not be received by a minister, but by the Yosi Shnir, director general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

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Spokesman Comments on Suspect in U.S. Bomb Case

JN2104114695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1105 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on news agency reports on the name of the person who was returned to the United States from London's Heathrow Airport against the backdrop of the investigation of the Oklahoma explosion and the link that was established between him and the luggage that was confiscated at Rome airport, the Jordanian Government's official spokesman has stated that the information available to the Jordanian authorities is that the man's name is Ibrahim 'Abdallah Hasan Ahmad, of Palestinian origin, and that he was born in Janin in the occupied West Bank in 1963. He had left for the United States some 10 years ago where he studied electrical engineering, worked and resided there, and obtained U.S. citizenship.

The Jordanian Government reiterates its firm stand strongly condemning all forms of terrorism and announces that it is always ready to cooperate to confront it, and all those who support and condone it.

Daily Censures Media Linking Arabs to U.S. Bombing

JN2304090295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Apr 95 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Ready Accusation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main preoccupation of the Western mass media as well as the Israeli propaganda machine, since the appalling crime was committed in the U.S. state of Oklahoma, has been to blame Arabs and Muslims for this condemned crime and hold this [Arab] nation's countries and peoples responsible for the possible consequences of this barbaric and ugly action.

Israeli mass media, in a bid to accuse Arabs of this grisly action, specifically used the term "Middle Eastern features" in referring to the two men who blew up the federal building in Oklahoma. They even went as far as to claim that these two men were bearded and that their clothes revealed their ethnic identity. However, when the truth became clear and it was revealed that the perpetrators of this crime were extremist, right-wing Americans, these mass media maintained silence and did not even take the trouble to publically apologize for this deliberate misevaluation, if not systematic attempt to pin this accusation on us as Arabs and Muslims.

Thus, we find ourselves among the innocent victims of the Oklahoma crime, especially after it was revealed that this ready accusation was false. It was revealed that a fanatic American group called the Michigan Militia did not hesitate to commit a massacre modelled on those massacres committed by terrorists in all places and all times, regardless of their color or religious beliefs.

The heinous crime that shocked the United States and the human conscience everywhere will remain a disgrace for bigotry regardless of its source or orientation. The despicable accusation the Western and Israeli media tried to pin on Arabs and Muslims will also remain a disgrace for that media whose officials claim they are objective, balanced, civilized, and respect the truth.

Daily Reports Islamic Reaction to Oklahoma Blast

JN2204085095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian Islamists Friday [21 April] condemned the Oklahoma car bomb attack but warned against building stereotype image of Muslims as terrorists.

Commenting on Wednesday's blast that killed and injured around 300 people, a spokesman for the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party strongly voiced condemnation but warned against attempts to stereotype Arabs and Muslims as terrorists.

"Before the truth even came out, the fingers of accusation were pointed at persons with Middle Eastern looks," said Muhammad 'Uwaydah, a member of the IAF parliamentary group.

Dr. 'Uwaydah, who represents the al-Baq'ah camp constituency in the al-Balqa' district, said the IAf was unlikely to issue a formal condemnation of the attack since the largest Islamic party could not be considered as directly concerned or accused of committing such an act.

While he strongly criticised the U.S. policies vis-a-vis the Middle East, Dr. 'Uwaydah said his party and the Islamists generally do not have anything against the American people themselves and would not engage in such acts. He cast doubts, however, over "Israelis and Zionists," and said they might be involved in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

"I would not be surprised if there were some Israeli fingers in this incident," Dr. 'Uwayday said. "It is an American Jewish conspiracy aimed at stereotyping Arabs and Muslims as terrorists... it is part of a campaign launched by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin."

As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, head of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis, refused to condemn the blast even though he said it was against the Islamic belief to kill innocent people.

"We do not condemn and we don't interfere in these matters," Mr. al-Tamimi said. "We don't know anything about it... all what we say is that Islam prohibits the killing of women and children."

In a statement issued in the occupied territories, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, condemned the

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blast and stressed its objection to such acts that led to the death of children and civilians.

The statement stressed that Hamas' military operations are only aimed at "resisting the Zionist occupation which is the sole enemy of the Palestinian people."

"The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, stresses it has no animosity towards the American people or anyone else. It seeks to establish constructive relations with all peoples all over the world," the statement said.

"We denounce the incident," said Sayyid Abu-Musamih, a prominent member of Hamas in self-ruled Gaza.

"Hamas has no function whatsoever outside the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, and there is no enmity between us and the American people," he said.

A spokesman for Islamic Jihad also condemned the Oklahoma blast and both groups rejected any accusations of Islamic involvement.

"Jihad confirms that the Islamic movement has absolutely no connection to the incident, and rejects the distorted Jewish accusations against Muslims," the spokesman said.

Citizens Fear 'Implications' of Oklahoma Bomb

JN2204072995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Terrorism Hurts Everybody"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The explosion that ripped through a nine-storey U.S. federal office building in the heart of Oklahoma City Wednesday [19 April] morning and took the lives of tens of innocent people including children and injured so many others has shocked the international community and caused pain and sorrow worldwide. Never has the world been so united in condemning a terrorist attack than in the aftermath of this carnage. Countries, big and small, and factions from the right and the left have all joined the international chorus that unanimously denounced the bombing attack against a civilian target.

In view of the similarity of the Oklahoma bombing with the 1993 terrorist explosion at the World Trade Centre, some observers have already hinted that some Muslim extremists could be behind the latest act. Others have insinuated that an American religious sect could have been behind it.

But whoever committed the heinous crime, and whatever their reason, we in Jordan as elsewhere in the Middle East remain resolute in our condemnation of any and all terrorist acts that aim to undermine the course of stability and humanity worldwide. His Majesty King Husayn spoke for all of us when he sent a cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton not only to denounce the massacre but also to offer all assistance in the efforts to apprehend the culprits.

The people of Jordan are equally stunned by the attack but fear the implications and the shock waves. At the same time, though, we have to warn against any attempt to stereotype Arabs and Muslims, as indeed happened in the past, especially that guilt by association is wrong at best. Any precipitous backlash against one country or people or religion or another is alien to a fair sense of justice. We therefore hope that the international community would join in one coordinated and concerted effort to apprehend the culprits and all those associated with them without pointing an accusing finger towards one direction or another unjustifiably and unnecessarily.

Islamic Action Front Denounces Oklahoma Blast

JN2304093595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 27

[Report by Yahya al-Juju]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—A group of Islamic scholars and men of religion has stressed that Islam prohibits crimes of murder, terrorism, and attacks on Muslims and innocent citizens, stressing that God's law is just, the principles of Islam are merciful and its call is universal, and that Islam is the religion of all mankind. The scholars and men of religion noted that God honors human beings regardless of their color, race, or language. They denounced acts of terrorism and murder being carried out by some governments and states under various slogans. This came in interviews AL-DUSTUR has conducted with a number of men of religion and scholars on Islam's stand toward the terrorist operation in the U.S. city of Oklahoma, and other crimes.

His Eminence Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, head of the Fatwa [religious edict] Committee of the Islamic Action Front and member of the House of Representatives, said: Islam is undoubtedly the religion of mercy and justice, and, therefore, it does not allow that relations among peoples be based on injustice and aggression. The principles of Islam reject aggression against peaceful citizens.

He added: This operation reminds us that God's just law, Islam's merciful principles, and the bases of mercy and justice which were brought by all prophets, should prevail among peoples. These spiteful operations also show that the world order which guides the United States and other countries is a worthless order which should be reconsidered. While condemning and denouncing these abhorrent operations we also denounce all acts of terrorism and murder which are carried out by some governments and states under various slogans. We beseech God to unite peoples on the principles of mercy, justice, and cooperation. [passage omitted]

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Islamist on Proposed Antinormalization Conference

NC2204194695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Dr. al-Farhan, have you informed the government of your plan to hold a conference to prevent normalization with the Zionist entity? What measures have you taken to hold this conference?

[Al-Farhan] We have informed the governor of our intention to hold this conference on 27 April and taken the necessary preparations in this regard to safeguard the homeland and prevent normalization. We also prepared a national charter for safeguarding the homeland to be issued by this conference. However, the governor has informed us that the legal arrangements or conditions are insufficient. When we asked for clarifications, he did not provide us with specific steps for us to take to hold the conference. We believe we have met all the legal conditions to hold a conference in a democratic society; and we are within our rights to hold public meetings. However, the governor insisted on preventing the conference by force. We have prepared a memorandum for the prime minister and requested a meeting with him. We are awaiting this meeting to discuss this matter, which is our right as the opposition.

[Correspondent] How many figures are invited to attend this conference? Will it be held in Amman or somewhere else?

[Al-Farhan] According to the arrangements, 500 figures are to be invited, of whom one-third represent the parties, one-third represent the associations and trade unions, and the remainder represent well-known independent political figures. Thus, it will be a massive yet symbolic popular conference. It is symbolic because it is hard to hold a rally attended by tens of thousands of people. It is not a rally as much as a conference that brings together political and intellectual figures representing the entire people and from which a charter is to be issued which we will use as a point of reference for preventing the normalization and protecting the homeland.

[Correspondent] What are the broad outlines of the charter that is supposed to be issued by the conference, if it is held?

[Al-Farhan] We want to explain the nature of the political situation in the region and the fact that Israel is seeking to become an indivisible part of the Middle East. We insist that this term, the Middle East, is meant to replace the name of the Arab homeland. We believe it is a major conspiracy against the region no less serious than that of the Sykes-Picot Agreement at the beginning of this century. The goal of this conspiracy is to partition the nation and have Israel absorbed legitimately. We are against this, and this is what we want to explain as a point of reference. Israel must be rejected on the grounds that it is culturally and ideologically alien to the region. It is an invading country that must not be accepted in this region. In light of this, we drafted a plan to prevent the cultural, political, educational, intellectual, and trade normalization. We are certain that our people will reject normalization with the Israeli enemy until God grants us victory over it, God willing.

[Correspondent] If the prime minister bans the conference, will the Islamic alliance insist on it?

[Al-Farhan] We do not want to jump to conclusions before events unfold. We hope that in the coming few days the prime minister will approve the conference, which is a peaceful and not violent measure. We do not allow any room for violence. This is our legal and constitutional right as the opposition, and we hope that he will approve it. In the coming few days, the parties will meet again to discuss the matter, so let us wait and see.

Israeli Envoy on 'Threats,' Peace, Normalization

JN2104123795 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 22-28 Apr 95 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Do you or the embassy staff fear extremists or peace opponents during your movement around Amman, or do you feel it is safe?

[Shamir] Regrettably, terrorism has become a universal phenomenon. All diplomats in the world could be exposed to danger, including the Israelis, Americans, Turks, and others. Of course, in daily life, security measures are taken to protect diplomats everywhere. We do our job regardless of the threats of terrorism. This has become part of daily life.

[Correspondent] This means that there are fears.

[Shamir] I am not afraid, although I know there are threats. Therefore, Jordanian authorities are taking the necessary security measures according to the type of threat. However, we have to continue our work regardless of such threats. If we changed our daily routine and stopped carrying out the embassy's tasks, this would be a victory for the "terrorist movements."

[Correspondent] Do you receive threatening calls?

[Shamir] In this embassy we have not received any threatening calls.

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[Correspondent] Is it true that there is an Israeli group searching for an ancient, Jewish city in the Dhiban area? And, is it true that you intend to buy land in Umm-Qays?

[Shamir] I have not heard about such reports. Of course, Jordan has a long history. At certain eras in ancient times, Jews were living as part of other peoples. This is an area of interest to archaeologists. However, this has nothing to do with a political plan or any political or economic events. There is great interest in the region's history. The Israelis respect Jordan's antiquities. It is untrue that I intend to buy land in Umm-Qays; this is not our goal and we do not have such intentions.

[Correspondent] Have you received any offers for leasing a building for the Israeli Embassy?

[Shamir] We are looking for a suitable building. We started negotiations with some landlords in Amman, but so far we have not found a suitable place. Any way there is progress in our negotiations with landlords in this regard.

[Correspondent] Is it the price or site?

[Shamir] The problem is that the embassy has various requirements. We expect that a great number of people will visit us to obtain visas in the upcoming stage. Therefore, we need a suitable building. Most of the houses we have seen so far are suitable for use as houses rather than an embassy.

[Correspondent] How would evaluate relations with Jordanian businessmen?

[Shamir] Actually relations with Jordanian businessmen have been established. Some businessmen went to see their Israeli counterparts and some Israeli businessmen came to see their Jordanian counterparts. We believe that these relations will develop in a natural manner between businessmen from both countries without any official involvement. This is the natural way to promote trade and industrial relations. My impression is that there has been tangible progress toward carrying out joint ventures.

[Correspondent] Do businessmen visit you here?

[Shamir] Yes, a large number of Jordanian businessmen visit us daily. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Social, not political, normalization has failed to a certain extent in Egypt. Do you think this will be the case in Jordan, especially since many professional unions and popular organizations reject normalization?

[Shamir] The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is different from the Israeli-Egyptian treaty: Peace with Jordan is based on an Arab consensus that came into existence since the Madrid conference. So, there is an Arab approval of peace with Jordan. The concept of peace is now more acceptable than in the past. Therefore, I believe that normalization with Jordan will be achieved faster than with Egypt. Even with Egypt there are joint tourism ventures. I think that Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians will constitute the heart of the region once an acceptable, not imposed, agreement is reached. [passage omitted]

King Receives Omani Message on Solidarity, Peace

JN2304191295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace this evening His Excellency Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Busa'idi, minister of the Omani Sultani Court, who conveyed a verbal message to his majesty from his brother His Majesty Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

The message was dealt with means of activating joint Arab action, strengthening Arab solidarity, and bilateral fraternal relations. The message also dealt with means of cooperation to advance the peace process and realize a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn emphasized that he is proud of the fraternal and distinguished relations between Jordan and Oman, and stressed the importance of continuing cooperation and consultation on various issues that concern the two sisterly states. He also stressed the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and activate the concept of Arab solidarity out of concern for the nation's causes, its rights, and the future of its generations.

His majesty also emphasized the constants of the Jordanian position, which supports comprehensive and just peace in this region, and Jordan's willingness to extend any effort that will advance the peace process in order to realize the aspired peace that enables the peoples of this region to resume their march of development and construction and to prepare for the future in an atmosphere of security and stability, and a free and honorable life.

His majesty asked the Omani minister to convey his fraternal greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qabus, as well as his wishes for continued good health and success.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and the Omani ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court.

The Minister was seen off upon departure this evening by Marwan al-Qasim and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

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Shiite Leader Fadlallah Condemns Oklahoma Bombing

NC2104191195 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Beirut, April 21 (AFP)—The spiritual leader of Lebanon's pro-Iranian fundamentalists condemned Friday [21 April] the Oklahoma car bombing and said Shiite Moslems had no interest in carrying out such an attack.

However Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described as aggression against Moslems "attempts by the American media to implicate Iran, fundamentalist movements, Arabs and Moslems" in the blast which killed 57 people with 150 still unaccounted for Friday.

"We condemn the explosion which targeted the Federal Building in Oklahoma because we reject any action aimed at innocent people and children whatever the considerations, arguments or pretexts," Shaykh Fadlallah said at Friday prayers here.

He underlined that Wednesday's attack coincided with the second anniversary of the bloody finale to a standoff between members of a cult in Waco, Texas, and law-enforcement agents.

He questioned "the reasons why the Zionist or American media have neglected this lead to accuse three Middle Eastern men," in a reference to reports that police were hunting such men.

The media "makes the public fear Moslem and Arab communities," Shaykh Fadlallah said.

But "Moslems have no political or security interest in (committing) such an action, not least because there is no problem between Moslems and the American people." [passage omitted]

Denouces U.S. Accusations Against Islamists

NC2204061595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Friday prayer imams discussed the following issues in their sermons yesterday: the anti-Iran onslaught by the forces of global arrogance, the conditions of Muslims, the Oklahoma bombing, the presidential election, the economy, and living conditions.

Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, member of Hizballah's Consultative Council, announced in his sermon that a daily onslaught is being conducted against the Islamic Republic of Iran under various false pretexts. He noted that Islamic Iran has surmounted all the dangers that global arrogance has devised against it. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said in his sermon that the West in general, and the United States in particular, are teaching their populations that a new enemy is threatening the West and the world's political stability, namely, Islamic fundamentalism.

His eminence added: Whenever an incident occurs in the West or the East, the Islamists are immediately accused and attention is drawn toward them even if they are proven innocent later on. This is what we have noticed in connection with the Oklahoma bombing. We strongly denounce this bombing just as we denounce any assault on civilians anywhere in the world.

Fadlallah emphasized the importance of protecting children and other civilians and preventing any attacks on them.

He declared: We abide by this policy.

He pointed out that bombings are a method introduced into the Middle East by the West and the United States. He said this region did not experience such a method of action until the Zionists introduced it into the Middle East by blowing up [Jerusalem's] King David Hotel during the British Mandate.

On the presidential election, Ayatollah Fadlallah asserted: If the president was directly elected by the people, the people could choose the candidate they believe is most suitable for the job and the most capable of solving their problems. We know, however, that the people play no direct or indirect role in electing the president or prime minister. So if the people have no role to play in this matter, why do they occupy themselves by talking about it? Judging by the facts in this country, the people can play neither a positive nor a negative role. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Warns Against U.S. Action Against Iran

NC2204183095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has warned that any U.S. military measure against the Islamic Republic of Iran will lead to a conflagration in the Middle East region and in the regional oil resources.

In an interview with the Lebanese paper AL-NAHAR, Fadlallah notes that the U.S. policy of containing Iran is fruitless considering Iran's longstanding historical and geographical status in the region. He added: Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, some states started a war against Iran through Iraq, with a view to toppling the Iranian regime, but they failed. Now Iran is a strong and stable country and such conspiracies are certainly doomed to failure, he added.

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Al-Asad Cable to Clinton Denounces Oklahoma Blast

JN2204184695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday morning, Friday, sent a cable to President Bill Clinton in which he denounced the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City and offered condolences to the U.S. President and the families of the victims. President al-Asad also wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Following is the text of the cable:

Thank you very much for your congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Evacuation [independence] Day. I wish to express my deep gratitude for the strong support you displayed for the efforts seeking to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and your readiness to play a constructive role to achieve that noble goal, which Syria endeavored and is endeavoring to achieve. I also stress to you Syria's continued adherence to the peace process.

I regret the fact that this message coincides with the hideous terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City, which resulted in the death of innocents. This act, and similar acts, must be denounced and condemned, and we strongly condemn it.

I extend to you, and through you to the families of the victims, my sincerest sympathy. I also wish a speedy recovery to the injured.

Minister: 'No Leniency' for U.S. Bomb Suspects

JN2204165095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 22 Apr (SANA)—In response to a question on Syria's position on the bombing of a government building in Oklahoma, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman described the bombing as a criminal act and said that no leniency toward its perpetrators should be allowed.

The minister added: All parties concerned must cooperate to prevent the occurrence of any similar deed, which nobody would perpetrate except those who must be punished in order to protect societies from their criminal motives. [sentence as received]

Daily Condemns Oklahoma Bombing, Western Media Bias

JN2404101395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0453 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the terrorist Oklahoma bombing. It says: No sooner had the Oklahoma bombing, which all countries condemned, taken place, than officials in newspapers, radio stations, and television networks in the United States and Britain leveled accusations against countries in the Middle East. The paper adds: The obvious explanation for this campaign is that these newspapers, radio stations, and television networks are in one way or another associated with the Zionist movement and view the entire region from a purely Israeli perspective.

TISHRIN notes that even after the United States itself said that none of the Middle East countries or citizens were involved in the incident and after charges were officially brought against two white Americans, some Western mass media continued to blame Islamist movements for the bombing. The newspaper maintains that this shows total disregard for the requirements of objective media and an inclination toward tendencious media that lends itself to serving a tendencious case.

TISHRIN says: Only Israel will benefit from slandering Arab and Islamic countries and employing this slander in serving its aggressive and expansionist goals and exploiting the Americans themselves.

The paper adds: Killing innocent people and assaulting establishments and all terrorist bombings deserve nothing but vehement condemnation and denunciation. Arab and Islamic countries were the first to condemn the Oklahoma blast, which claimed the lives of many innocent citizens.

The paper notes: We in the region make an accurate distinction between blind terrorism and national struggle against occupation, while Israel seeks to confuse them and reverse facts completely. To Israel, national struggle is a blind terrorist action, while the terrorist actions it practices against Palestinians and the Lebanese and the scorched-earth policy are cause for pride. Hence, came Syria's pressing call for drawing a line between terrorism and legitimate national struggle.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that the attempts of the quarters linked to Israel and Zionism to level groundless accusations against countries and movements in the Middle East are aimed solely at dragging the United States into adopting positions that do not befit its role as a world superpower nor serve its interests.

U.S. Urged To Compel Full Israeli Withdrawal

JN2204072195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN discusses the conditions required for the realization of the aspired progress in the Middle East peace talks. In its editorial, the paper stresses that any progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks is represented first by translating the land-for-peace principle into tangible reality on the ground.

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TISHRIN says that effecting the aspired progress on the Syrian-Israeli track necessarily requires implementation of the bases of the Madrid conference, as the UN Security Council resolutions explicitly call for Israel's full withdrawal and removing the effects of the aggression.

TISHRIN says that the land-for-peace principle means the restoration of the entire occupied territory rather than part of it. Such a conclusion requires U.S. efforts with Israel, which is creating obstacles and adamantly preventing any boost to the peace process to achieve the required progress. In that, Israel is motivated by expansionist ambitions cloaked by unjustifiable security concerns. It is common knowledge that the agreements signed by Israel have not brought the region closer to peace and have not provided security for either the Palestinians or the Israelis. This is because, simply, those agreements have violated the bases of the Madrid conference, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that Syria is not ready at all to join such agreements. Unless peace is just and comprehensive and meets the people's aspirations for having the entire Golan Heights and Arab rights restored, then it is not worth taking any risks at all.

In a similar comment, AL-THAWRAH notes a big and strange paradox in the recent Israeli officials' statements that they are not ready to consider joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty before a comprehensive peace prevails throughout the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH says that there is only one justification for this glaring and unjustified contradiction concerning comprehensive peace. The Arabs, particularly Syria, have argued and continue to argue that Israel joined the peace process unwillingtly and has worked adamantly during the rounds of peace talks to prevent them from achieving any progress. Israel persisted in such practices until the peace process came to a standstill. Afterward, Israel resorted to separate deals to terminate the peace process since it aims at achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region, a peace that binds Israel, before anything else, to withdraw fully from the entire occupied Arab territories. This is unacceptable by Israel for it contravenes its aggressive, expansionist, and colonial policy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Therefore, if the international community wants the peace process to achieve progress, the cosponsors of the peace conference, particularly the United States, must compel Israel to abide by the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace, especially full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, returning to the 4 June 1967 line, and accepting the principles of equality [musawah] and balance [tawazun] in any security measures applied on both sides of that line. The United States is able to compel Israel to do so.

Israeli Nuclear Program Said To Threaten Regional Balance

JN2304174595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Apr 95

[From the "Palestine" broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: There is a high percentage of Arab and Islamic states that refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] if Israel does not sign it and does not place its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, just like the signatories to the NPT.

As was explained by the Arab press, the Arabs are not concerned over the NPT itself. They are rather concerned over Israel's nuclear program, which Israel refuses to subject to international supervision and inspection. This nuclear program creates a serious imbalance in the future military and strategic balance in the region. It also poses many questions about the Israeli intentions behind the peace process at a time when Israel feverishly seeks to control the region militarily.

If Israel is not convinced to remove its weapons of mass destruction and halt their production, the peace treaties that were signed, or those that were expected to be signed, will remain mere ink on paper and hollow articles. Moreover, they will not stand fast against future winds. This is because Israel can at any moment breach the fragile peace in order to achieve its aggressive and expansionist policy in the Arab region.

It is thus necessary for international pressures to compel Israel to sign the NPT. This will secure the signing of this treaty by the Arab and Islamic states. However, if Israel is exempted from signature, the region will be pushed to find a way to achieve a strategic balance of power in a manner that confronts Israel's aggressive and expansionist ambitions and prevents Israel from taking advantage of its nuclear program to impose hegemony on the region. If this happens, security and peace in the whole world will be threatened.

The Arab demand that Israel be compelled to join the NPT is a just and basic demand. The NPT can only be called a universal treaty by compelling Israel to sign it, exactly like other states, including the Arab states.

Al-Asad Message to Suharto Notes NPT Stance

JN2404080695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Apr 95

["Text" of message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Indonesian President Suharto, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, on the 40th anniversary of the convocation of the "Afro-Asian Bandung summit" on 10 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency President Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], Bandung, Indonesia:

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Dear President Suharto: It pleases me, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, which had the honor of taking part in the first Afro-Asian summit held in Bandung, to congratulate you and your friendly country, which embraced the historic meeting 40 years ago, the meeting whose anniversary NAM [Nonaligned Movement], whose membership now exceeds 100 countries, today marks in the very city of Bandung.

On this great occasion, we are dutybound to remember, with enormous gratitude, unique historic figures, chief among which are 'Abd-al-Nasir, Sukarno, Nehru, Tito, and Nkrumah, for the creative ideas and humane principles they set forth to lay down strong foundations for NAM, which has grown steadily year by year until it has become, thanks to its principles and the solidarity of its member countries, a force to be reckoned with in international relations.

The principles spelled out in the Bandung conference have eloquently expressed the concerns of Third World nations, their eagerness to consolidate world peace and security and keep at bay the specter of war, as well as their rejection of foreign attempts at domination, hegemony, and interference in the world countries' domestic affairs. The efforts made by NAM were highly effective in supporting the struggle waged by popular liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and in enabling their peoples to restore their basic rights, including their right to self- determination and independence. NAM also enabled these peoples to protect their freedom and human dignity after a long interval of injustice, oppression, and domination under colonial rule.

It is regrettable that NAM, in the aftermath of the end of the Cold War, has become the target of campaigns of skepticism questioning its role, usefulness, and viability. Nonetheless, Syria has been at the forefront of the member countries to defend NAM, uphold its principles, and underline the importance of energizing its role, particularly in light of the changes brought about by international developments, such as the multifaceted wars that are driven by various motives, not to mention the serious defects in international relations.

Syria believes that the international state of affairs with its current upheavals and changes should push our developing countries more than ever toward further solidarity, and the closing of ranks around the Bandung principles and the attainment of the objectives of NAM, which still faces momentous challenges. These challenges, in their essence, are more dangerous than the challenges the movement used to tackle during the Cold War era.

From this premise, we reiterate the need to unite our efforts to enhance south-south cooperation and invigorate north-south dialogue on the basis of respect for reciprocal interests, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

We also believe that there is need for effective coordination among our countries to enhance abidance by the objectives and principles of the UN Charter, and to restructure the international organization in a manner that will secure democracy in international relations, end the double standard dealing with basic issues, and prevent using the United Nations to achieve narrow interests that conflict with the international community's overall interests.

From the premise of our eagerness to achieve international peace and security, Syria struggles to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle. Syria also calls for a genuine universality of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] without any exceptions. Excepting any country from joining the NPT will undermine the credibility of this treaty, and abort its objectives. This will open the door to a new arms race, underlying immense threats to all mankind. Syria, which enjoys close fraternal relations with your country, highly values what Indonesia—president, government, and people have contributed to enhance the NAM's role, and defend its stands and decisions. Syria confidently looks to pursuing such a course in the interest of the countries of the movement and for the good and peace of this world. We wish you health and happiness and progress and prosperity for your country.

[Signed] Yours faithfully, Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, 10 April

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Afghanistan

Taleban Suffers Heavy Defeat in Farah Province

LD2104180795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After three days of heavy clashes between Taleban and government forces in the west of Afghanistan, reports indicate that the Taleban have withdrawn from their positions.

Informed Afghan sources, reporting the above, said that the clashes occurred in Farah Province, Shindand airport, and other areas in the north of that province.

The spokesman for the governor of Herat said yesterday that about 200 of Taleban forces were killed in those clashes and a quantity of weapons and ammunitions were seized.

Afghan sources say that after the defeat of the Taleban in Chahar Asiab in the south of Kabul, this has been their biggest defeat they have suffered in the west of Afghanistan.

Taleban Reported in Control of Two Provinces

LD2204160295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban forces are in full control of Farah and Nimruz Provinces. In an interview with BBC radio, Mola Abdol Manan, one of the Taleban group's representatives, said that they are ready to take journalists to the provinces which are under their control and show them the areas which have been taken out of control of Isma'il Khan's forces. He added that his forces have made marked advances in Shindand district and caused losses of manpower and material among Isma'il Khan's forces.

The Taleban forces have also started operations in Ghowr and Badghis Provinces and have seized some areas in these two provinces.

The representative of the Taleban group added that the Shura-e Nezar, in cooperation with the ex-communists and Indian pilots, are trying to stand against the Taleban movement. He added: Whoever cooperates with the Taleban movement will receive our support and whoever wants Rabbani's government to step down must cooperate with us.

Russians Reportedly Bomb Badakhshan Province

LD2204174095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In resuming aerial bombardment by the Russian aggressors, 12 people were killed around Darvaz district, Badakhshan Province.

According to reports reaching BAKHTAR, four Russian and CIS jets heavily bombarded the villages of Zeborg, Jamalia, and Obghan-e Ulya, located around Darvaz district, Badakhshan Province, on Thursday at 1600 hours [1130 GMT]. As a result of these savage aerial bombardments, 12 compatriots of ours were martyred and another 16 people were injured. As a result of this bombardment, a number of residential houses and farmland also sustained damages.

According to another report, four helicopters belonging to the Russian Air Force fired rockets today at 1100 hours at Mayani village, Darvaz district. The details of this attack have not yet been reported.

In violating the sanctity of our country's airspace, the Russian and CIS planes had also earlier bombarded some areas in the north of the country which caused dozens of people to be martyred.

India

Commentary on U.S. Treasury Secretary's Visit

Editorial Calls For Investments

BK2104115795 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 20 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Current Pressure Won't Do"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having come to India the U.S. Treasury Secretary Mr Robert E. Rubin must have realized that India's political and economic stability has come now to stay even if the government in the Center gets changed. Viewing next year's general elections in India, the United States has considerably softened its attitude toward the conditions it imposed for foreign investment to India. However, its insistence on the conditions has not vanished; only the tone and tenor has undergone a change. It now cares more for the security of U.S. investment in India. It was in this connection that the U.S. treasury secretary expressed his willingness for a bilateral investment treaty with India. So far the United States has been stressing India's opening its insurance sector for foreign companies, which India has continued to postpone on one pretext or another. However, it now appears as if the United States has realized that there is no use stressing the opening up of the insurance sector for the present. That is why Mr Rubin announced that the United States would not make it a precondition for providing investment. However, U.S. insistence on enforcing other conditions hasn't diminished. Regarding intellectural property rights, the United States is also insisting upon their enforcement, pleading that there is no sense in negating the progress so far made in the direction.

No doubt the U.S. investment in India has increased considerably over the many years past, but this has been mostly in the form of portfolio investment. In simple terms it means that U.S. investors have not yet become

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fully committed to investing in India and despite many hopes linked with the vast Indian markets, they wish to make investment in India so that they can withdraw their money whenever they want. The U.S. treasury secretary admits that the chief reason for the lack of U.S. investors' interest in India is the lack of the right information about India; the U.S. industrialists simply do not have it. Whatever the cause, the United States should realise that despite India's valiant attempts to get foreign investment, it is not going to accept any conditions unfavorable to its larger interests. It is an old U.S. style to use political issues to ensure its trade benefits. It has been using human rights' or environmental issues for this end. This was the reason why U.S. Assistant Secretary Timothy Wirth had to give assurances during his last Indian visit that the United States would not be using the environment issue as a pre-condition for economic cooperation. In the same way, the United States will have to change its viewpoint regarding the other conditions, chiefly because the ideological stress that has surfaced after the recent elections in India will not allow any political party to take the risk of wilting under foreign pressure—although this ideological stress might help the parties develop a consensus regarding the main issues in such a way that any change of government might not influence our direction of progress. Being itself a democratic country, the U.S. should appreciate the democratic conditions prevalent in India and must realize the vital fact that our democratic set up is itself the biggest guarantee for a fair economic deal.

Editorial Evaluates Visit

BK2204102495 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 Apr 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Rubin It In"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United States secretaries of treasury do not usually expect their diplomatic visits to clash with those of dignitaries from other nations. However, that Mr Robert Rubin found in the Iranian president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a co-guest in New Delhi is not so much a gaffe as an indication of new turns in India- US relations. The latter—Kashmir, the bomb and such irritants notwithstanding—have not only improved, but their quality have also undergone a change. In particular, the emphasis has shifted from the strategic and geopolitical to the economic and, within the latter, from official bilateral negotiations to private exchanges. In this sense, Mr Rubin's visit was meant to act mostly as a facilitator of private commercial exchanges. Which is why his sojourn's clashing with Mr Rafsanjani's visit should not be seen as a diplomatic goof up, even if the US secretary of treasury was clearly surprised by the "coincidence". However, before and after his surprise Mr Rubin played the role of an economic statesman with finesse. Unlike his cabinet colleague, the US secretary of commerce, Mr Ron Brown, Mr Rubin did not have a detailed agenda. His brief was to stress the outstanding issues in India-US economic relations, but not make a heavy weather out of them. At the same time, the secretary of treasury made regulation approving noises about the progress made on economic reforms, especially as related to tariff rationalisations.

India should have little cause to complain on these counts. For, Mr Rubin could have arguably been more insistent on the timetable for such US demands as a liberalised insurance sector and the adoption of the Uruguay round agreement of trade related intellectual property rights. That he even stopped short of linking US investment to Indian insurance reforms must have been particularly comforting for India. The latter was also relieved at Mr Rubin's support for its plea that the quantum of international development assistance [IDA]—the World Bank's soft loan component—should not be decreased. Though, formally, the decision on IDA quotas rests with the bank, it would be idle to pretend the US's support does not count. True, even more idle would have been predictions that India's demand on fewer US restrictions on the working conditions of professionals will be met. But the existence of such problems—India's belated application to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is another one—should not be seen as diluting the strength of the mutual interest between the two nations. India, with its indubitable potential as a destination for US goods and investment, and the US, as India's biggest export market and the most important source of foreign investment, have too much to gain from each other.

Economic Cooperation Viewed

BK2204113195 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Apr 95

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the United States treasury secretary, Mr. Robert Rubin, to India last week was a high point in the evolving closer economic cooperation between the two countries. USA is the biggest source of investment and technology and is also the largest trading partner for India, taking about 20 percent of its exports. The two-way trade touched $7 billion in 1994. Mr. Rubin was the first treasury secretary to visit India in 20 years, and his discussions in New Delhi with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and other ministers helped him to gain a better insight about the progress and pace of reforms in India.

The United States has been fully supportive of the reform process as reflected by the dramatic rise in American private investments and technology collaborations during the last three years. The U.S. interest in India is guided by the perception that India has the potential to become one of the major economic players in the world in a not-distant future. Its vast market offers enormous opportunities for U.S. businessmen. Mr. Rubin's visit followed a series of high-level exchanges which were set in motion with a landmark visit of Prime

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Minister Rao to Washington in May 1994. Several billion dollars of investments in energy and other infrastructural sectors have already been committed by U.S. business during the visit of U.S. commerce and energy secretaries earlier.

Talking about his discussions, Mr. Rubin said there has been a real change in direction, and the output indicators show the vibrancy of the Indian economy. India's enormous potential is being unleashed. Poverty rates are beginning to fall and literacy rates are rising. But there is much more to do, he said. Mr. Rubin emphasized the importance of maintaining macroeconomic stability and steady pursuit of sectoral reforms.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Government is very much interested in a bigger opening in India's financial sector—especially in insurance—for American firms to do business. Mr. Rubin expressed the hope that liberalization and insurance, which is now a government monopoly, would be accomplished over time. He made it clear that he had not sought any firm commitment on the opening up of the insurance sector, nor would it become a precondition for further U.S. investments. In his view, private sector perception in insurance would help efficient mobilization of savings in India. Mr. Rubin also said India and USA were discussing the conclusion of the bilateral investment treaty and the scope for larger funding from the Overseas Private Investment (?Corporation) in Washington.

The U.S. treasury secretary was reassuring about his country's support for the refunding of the World Bank's soft lending affiliate, the International Development Agency, IDA, and said many Indian projects deserve support from this facility. His visit to a watershed project in the state of Rajasthan supported by the World Bank convinced him of the need to support such development projects on concessional terms.

Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Rubin reviewed the international currency developments and other matters relating to strengthening of the role of IMF in the context of the recent financial crisis in Mexico. These subjects will come up before the IMF-World Bank committee meeting in Washington this week. Dr. Manmohan Singh pointed out that developing countries engaged in reforming their economies face problems which are not of their own making, such as rise in international rates and instability of major currencies as has happened to the dollar in recent weeks. The finance minister proposed there should be an international safety net to help developing countries in overcoming factors beyond their control.

Mr. Rubin agreed that this issue should be addressed and said it would be taken up on a wider basis at the summit of the seven leading industrial nations—Group of Seven—to be held in June in Canada. Mr. Rubin noted that India did not face the type of situation in which Mexico landed itself and was on solid footing in many respects. But, he said, more should be done to reduce fiscal deficits and the inflation rate.

Rao Reiterates 'Commitment' on Nuclear Issues

BK2204121495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has reiterated India's commitment to the goal of curbing nuclear proliferation and complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe. Addressing the combined commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao called upon the international community to devise a universal, comprehensive, nondiscriminatory, and verifiable nonproliferation regime.

He regretted that the Nonproliferation Treaty has failed to achieve its objectives, as is evident from clandestine efforts by Pakistan to attain nuclear weapon capability. Mr. Rao said there is no meaningful response from Islamabad in spite of India's willingness for a bilateral dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues. He asserted that India's consistent attempts has been to strengthen the forces of reconciliation, peace, and stability to eliminate tension and conflicts, and in our endeavor in that direction, India's relations with all its neighbors will continue to be cordial and cooperative.

The prime minister commended the role of the defense forces and said that India's armed forces have brought honor to the country through their exemplary participation in the UN peacekeeping operations.

'More Decisive Use' of Nuclear Position Urged

BK2304084895 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 30 Apr 95 p 4

[Unattributed "Comment": "Time to be Firm"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The latest official brouhaha over India's nuclear options in which External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has been compelled to reiterate the country's traditional stand on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is one more example of the Government's wishy-washy approach to a vital strategic and geopolitical issue. It's the same old reaction: the NPT is discriminatory because it seeks to arm-twist nations with nuclear capability into submission while protecting the interests of the real bomb-owning elite. Mukherjee's latest response was obviously triggered by the US's all-out effort to seek an extension of the NPT which comes up for review this month.

And it takes on a current political edge in view of Pakistan's owning up to building a second plutonium-producing reactor. That may be a cause for immediate concern. But what is far more important is a long-term view aimed not only at checkmating Pakistan's designs or a longer term threat from China's missile capability but also in ensuring that in the future, the entire world is protected from nuclear war.

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This larger world view is not dissonant with that held by the superpowers. And there is no sane alternative to a nuclear bomb- free world in the interest of the survival of this planet. But this objective cannot be achieved by mouthing shibboleths or emitting confusing or mixed signals. Let's face it. Ever since the Pokhran test in 1974, India's attitude towards nuclear strategy has been ambivalent if not downright schizophrenic. Secretly, New Delhi seemed to love the bomb and the power that accrued from it, while publicly it abjured the very thought of harnessing the atom for any other but peaceful purposes.

This attitude has arisen from the lack of serious thinking on how to use nuclear strength as a bargaining chip with the rest of the world in order to achieve long-term security and work towards the goal of world nuclear disarmament. In fact, with the toughness that Robin Raphel showed on this issue last year, and with the secret conclaves in London, it appeared that India was in a mood to surrender lamely to the demands of Uncle Sam. But what has stirred things up again is not only the news of Pakistan's new reactor but also the decision by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] at its recent Goa conclave to pursue the nuclear-bomb option.

With the main opposition party making such an open demand, the Government is in a bit of a fix. Does it oppose the demand or does it give it tacit support? And that's the main point. A clear view on the subject would not have put the Government in such a fix. For, what is of prime importance here is a firm national consensus on national security.

The Americans, for example, irrespective of which party is in power, never compromise on their dominant security concerns—be it defanging threshold nuclear states such as North Korea and Iraq, squeezing India to forego its option or ensuring its own nuclear supremacy.

India should unabashedly borrow from such long-term strategic planning. Instead of making the nuclear-bomb issue a domestic political football game or using it for grandiose moralising abroad, New Delhi should brandish it as a major bargaining tool to persuade other nuclear countries to make firm commitments for dismantling their nuclear weapons as a prelude to making the world a nuclear bomb-free zone. Any interim compromises on the missiles programme should be made only after striking hard bargains on the economic front while getting the US to mount pressure on Pakistan's nuclear capability and support to terrorists as well as China's nuclear intentions.

Perhaps because of the uncertainties facing the Central Government, and with the ruling party uncertain of a comeback and engaged for the most part in an internal firefighting operation, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's international bargaining power has taken a severe knock. But notwithstanding these circumstances, considering that the US is desperately lobbying for an extension of the NPT, the time was just ripe for India to up the ante to achieve both long-and short-term security concerns. It seems to have blown the opportunity.

Barring the usual noises, India has largely remained silent on its key concerns. The NPT has neither prevented the clandestine transfer of nuclear-bomb technology and materials to countries like Pakistan, nor has it spurred the five nuclear powers who had formulated it into dismantling their stockpiles. Once the treaty is renewed, India can expect even more vigorous pressure from the US to give up the nuclear option with fewer and fewer quid pro quos.

Even as a damage-control exercise, it would be useful, even at this stage, for the leaders of the ruling party, the BJP and the National Front-Left alliance to confabulate and agree firmly on a long-term national-security strategy that would address the nation's main defence concerns. No matter which party comes to power, there should be a broad agreement that none would undermine these goals without compelling reason.

Under Rajiv Gandhi, India played its nuclear card adroitly. In public, Rajiv propagated his six-nation universal disarmament plan. In private, his foreign secretary Mani Dixit was instructed to talk tough with the US and make it clear that India reserved the right to adopt its bomb option if pushed to the wall. By staying away from the NPT review meeting as an observer, India has made the right move. But it needs to make more decisive use of its nuclear position lest dilly-dallying be mistaken for weakness.

Iran

Velayati Arrives in New York for NPT Session

LD2104130495 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, April 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in New York, the United States, on Thursday [20 April] to take part in the atomic weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) extension and review session, which is under way in New York from April 17 to May 12.

Velayati and his entourage were welcomed by Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi and several ambassadors and the Islamic republic mission staff at John F. Kennedy Airport on Thursday.

The Iranian official is to brief the audience on Iran's stance against non-proliferation of atomic weapons on Friday.

Furthermore, he is to reiterate Iran's adherence to the convention and underline the need for peaceful use of nuclear energy by NPT members.

Representatives of 116 out of 177 NPT member countries have registered their names to define their respective countries' viewpoints on the issue.

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Velayati, who accompanied President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his visits to India and Georgia this week, is to leave New York for Indonesia on Friday to attend Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministers' session, which is to be held in Jakarta next week.

Outlines 'Major Obstacles' to NPT

LD2104171595 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, April 21, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently here to take part in the atomic weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) extension conference, expressed hope that the conference would achieve significant results.

Addressing the conference here today Velayati said that certain nuclear weapon states have failed to honor their obligations under the article of the treaty and as a result expanded the number of possessors of nuclear weapons by providing direct and indirect assistance for the development of nuclear capabilities.

He said that certain nuclear states, who are ostensibly the most active advocates of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, not only rendered, generously, materials and know-how to Israel which has enabled this regime to develop nuclear weapons, but also turned a blind eye on Israel's production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, tacitly exempting it, despite its record of reckless expansionism, from the NPT.

This approach has nurtured destabilizing incentives in the Middle East region and helped generate spiralling crises, noted Velayati, adding that the threat posed by possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and its intransigent refusal to accept the NPT and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards has given rise to non-accession to international instruments prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, most notably CWC [Chemical Weapons Convention], by a number of states in the region.

It is clear that the results of this ominous trend has been devastating for the security of the states as well as the credibility of the treaty itself, Velayati underlined.

Furthermore, it constitutes a major impediment towards universality of the NPT, and the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, which Iran first proposed in 1974. Needless to recall that this process also runs counter to the objectives of the Article 7 of the treaty, he added.

Velayati commented that the universality of the NPT must be achieved. The reported possession by Israel of nuclear weapons and its stubborn refusal to accept international control poses a grave destabilizing effect in the Middle East, an issue which requires attention in the international community.

IAEA came to existence to ensure full implementation of the treaty in good faith. It is, therefore, essential to strengthen IAEA and accord more credence to its reports and findings while adopting, at the same time, effective measures to disallow outlaw regimes like Israel who stubbornly reject the treaty or states who violate it to be immune from international accountability and reprisal, Velayati stated.

He concluded that the major obstacles of full realization of the objectives enshrined in the NPT, among others, include preventing the peacefull uses of nuclear energy for non-nuclear weapon states signatories of the NPT, increased nuclear power of those who possess this inhuman and destructive weapons, and the intransigent refusal of Israel to join the NPT.

Government's NPT Stance Viewed

LD2104170195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thursday 20 April, arrived in New York to attend the session on review and extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He was welcomed at New York airport by the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a number of ambassadors and officials of Iran at the United Nations.

Iran's foreign minister, according to the programs, will explain the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the subject of the session on the fifth day of the proceedings, that is Friday 21 April. Political observers believe that Dr. Velayati, in his speech at the session, will highlight two points which form the basis of Iran's policy on nuclear weapons. The first subject is that Iran, in it capacity as one of the pioneers of joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, has always respected the provisions of the treaty. Another point is that the Islamic Republic of Iran, simultaneous with opposing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, considers the peaceful use of the nuclear energy as an indisputable and just right of all the countries whose peaceful objectives have been confirmed by the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

The conference on review and extension of the NPT, which opened in New York on 17 April, is to continue until Monday 22 May. During this period the presidents, prime ministers,, and key officials of world states will explain the views of their governments on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. America and four other major nuclear powers in the world, namely the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, want an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT. But the nonaligned states, while criticizing the delaying tactics of the nuclear powers in total elimination of the nuclear weapons within a specific timetable, set forth a different

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demand. These countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, want that the provisions of this treaty be enforced through applying obligatory measures and the nuclear powers guarantee that such weapons will not be used for intimidating and threatening other countries of the world. Also, they want that these nuclear powers will agree to peaceful use of nuclear energy by the countries devoid of nuclear weapons.

U.S. 'Bias' of NPT Blasted

LD2304123795 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' here Sunday [23 April] commented on the fate of the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] which is currently under discussion in the United Nations and pointed out that the Western countries favoured 'indefinite and unconditional' extension of the 25-year treaty.

The daily went on to say that the "unreasonable and infeasible trend favoured by the U.S.-led bloc is the logical argument of the Third Worlders who are either averse or openly opposed to the NPT's indefinite lease of life."

Saying that NPT in its present form was unacceptable because, inter alia, it had awarded nuclear weapons monopoly to a selected few, it wrote that "moreover, some of these few—the U.S., France and Britain—have systematically disregarded the treaty's other fundamental facets which stipulated transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

The daily's editorial further touched upon the "unfairness of the treaty and nuclear hypocrisy of the Western alliance notwithstanding," and said that "the other basic criteria yet not addressed by the West is the existing threat of nuclear war or accident so grotesquely posed by America's baby—Israel."

"The Zionist state is known to have 200 nuclear warheads and is not a member of the treaty. Though it has never publicly denied or admitted its ownership of these offensive weapons, Tel Aviv has often made known that it will not be 'the first to deploy such weapons in case of war' in the already volatile Middle East.

Muslim states in this part of the world have clarified that Israel must be a party to the treaty and only then would they consider its renewal for another quarter century."

The editorial further remarked that "for obvious reasons, the Americans and British cannot and do not want to restrain the Zionist regime which is as much a threat to international peace and stability as is its underwriter's thuggery and intimidation."

It added that "following the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the United States has given itself the liberty to more arrogantly meddle in other nations' affairs, make military threats, impose trade embargoes...while keeping a tight lid on Israeli atrocities plus its clandestine nuclear program."

"Washington and London are rigorously campaigning to keep others from trying to become nuclear powers (Iran tops this list) because of the threat they may pose to Israeli security. These two unquestionable supporters of Israel and its lawlessness do not want to respond to the fact that if Iran is a future 'threat', how do you deal with the existing nuclear danger coming from Israel?

Silence, indifference or a hotchpotch of facts and fiction permanently laced by 'concerns of Islamic fundamentalism' is the normal response."

The daily also stated that "fortunately, today many of the 178 signatories of the NPT are overwhelming the document to see its worth and apparently are not taking U.S 'concerns' seriously.

Collectively, they and their peoples are much too aware of U.S. bias, the size of its own nuclear arsenal and the dangerous role these arms play in U.S. strategy, not to mention its (U.S.) lack of commitment to nuclear weapons abolition."

The KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in its editorial that "the history of NPT, or for the matter other global treaties has it that their usefulness and effectiveness declines with time.

If all rational issues related to the nuclear treaty and the nuclearization of Israel are not convincingly addressed at the ongoing U.N. gathering, Iran will have to rethink the wisdom of remaining in this one-sided treaty.

The bottom line is that a bomb is a bomb. It cannot be good for Israeli offense while being bad for the defensive needs of Middle East Muslims."

Bahrain, NPT, U.S. Gulf Policies Viewed

NC2104103595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Apr 95 p 1

[Political commentary: "Impostor Generals and the Policy of Divisiveness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days, the U.S. policy of sowing discord and divisiveness between Iran and countries in the region reached its climax. The president, secretaries of state and defense, representatives, and senators of the United States have centered executive policies and election campaigns on Iran. However, they are ignorant of the fact that if they fail to attain their objectives, not only will the politicians and executives face new problems, their future elections will also be difficult.

The latest example of such a policy was the visit by William Perry, Clinton's defense secretary, to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. Even his militant posture could not instigate the Arabs of these states against the

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Islamic Republic of Iran. Perry's only claim to military honor is that he is a volunteer soldier who borrowed the outfit of Norman Schwarzkopf—the implementor of the most extensive and savage operations in the beginning of the 90's—and appeared with the rank of general.

The most important U.S. provocations in the region are as follows:

The Emirates' Claim on the Three Iranian Islands in the Persian Gulf: This claim dates back to the time of Methuselah, it is colonialism which its fabricators return to from time to time for political reasons. The fact is that some Arab countries of the region have become convinced that the sole path for resolving and discussing the Emirates' claim is through bilateral negotiations.

However, the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the al-Shariqah shaykhdom oppose the above solution due to foreign instigations, the recommendations of foreign advisers, and some neighboring countries.

Another obstructive policy is aimed at disrupting economic and commercial relations, especially the ban on joint utilization of the oilfields in the Persian Gulf. There is no doubt that if the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf were to be influenced by such policies, they would suffer far more than Iran would. This is because Iran enjoys the best situation in the Persian Gulf as regards manpower, mineral resources, and all other aspects, including that of markets sales. Further, most important is its monopoly on routes linking it to Central Asia and the Caucasus. This importance has been doubled by the inauguration of the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railroad.

On the other hand, on the eve of the performance of the religious ritual of hajj and the Saudi Arabian Government's appeals and instigations, especially regarding Iranian pilgrims, carrying out such missions does not seem unprecedented or unusual.

The other instance is Bahrain. Once again, political and foreign agents and circles, spearheaded by Washington, are seeking to project a domestic uprising in Bahrain as being the result of Iran's incitement and influence among the country's revolutionaries.

If we were to go beyond the region, the main objective of the White House's latest diplomatic mission is to ease the atmosphere of mistrust regarding the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] especially the nonmembership of the Zionist regime.

At present, even Jordan has protested against Israel's nuclear objectives and for the first time since era of the Islamic Revolution, Egypt has concurred with the rightful stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the need for the Zionist regime to sign the NPT. From the foreign policy perspective of Washington, such missions will be able to steer the obsequious stances of the Persian Gulf countries toward the United States and subsequently toward the despotic Israel.

Efforts to convince the Arab countries continue in conjunction with Washington's efforts to exert pressure on Russia regarding nuclear cooperation with Iran. However, it appears that neither Perry nor Christopher have been able to negate the atmosphere of mistrust among the Arabs toward the despotic Israel regarding its nuclear activities and the NPT in general; nor has the White House succeeded in barring Russia from nuclear cooperation with Iran.

Despite the imaginary threats of the past, the agreement for nuclear cooperation with Iran for the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant is in place. The White House's suggestions to Russia for direct talks and its reneging on its threat to sever of nuclear cooperation with that country bears testimony to the Clinton administration's retreat after encountering the two-pronged resistance of Iran and Russia.

Israeli 'Propaganda' on U.S. Blast Criticized

LD2204103095 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Two morning dailies here Saturday [22 April] editorialized on the last Wednesday bomb explosion in Oklahoma City and criticized the campaign of disinformation that the Zionist propaganda machine launched to attribute the incident to the Islamic groups.

The English-language IRAN NEWS regretted that a major part of the U.S. mass media, run by the Zionists, has neglected a thorough consideration of terrorism worldwide and has instead sought to reap benefit from the situation to settle political accounts with Israel's regional adversaries.

"As soon as news of the Oklahoma bombing spread worldwide, the Zionists blamed extremist Islamic elements identified with Hamas and Islamic Jihad as being the most likely perpetrators of the blast," wrote the paper referring to the remarks on terrorism of the advisor to the head of the Zionsit regime and referring to the report on Israeli radio which pointed to the "relatively large Muslim community in Oklahoma City as responsible for the blast."

The paper noted that perhaps in the upcoming days, the U.S. public opinion would exert pressure on American statesmen to seriously tackle the issue of 'terrorism' once and for all without undue publicity and without engaging in political schemes, and take a united stand with other governments... to eradicate this indecent and vile phenomenon from the human community, it said.

The daily urged the world governments in conclusion "to hold a united platform in denouncing and uprootging the vicious phenonenon of terrorism to save innocent people from losing their lives and properties."

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Meanwhile, another English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES commenting on the same subject wrote that Islam attached great importance to human life, brotherly coexistance and concern for the underprivileged irrespective of race, caste or religion.

Referring to Iran's support "wherever it is said that human beings are suffering," the paper said let it be known that to take up arms when all doors for peaceful solution have been shut was not the same as malicious, indiscriminate acts of terrorism.

Without clear proof to support their allegations, Israeli experts on terrorism likened the Oklahoma blast to the 1993 World Trade Center explosion, urging U.S. investigators to focus on Islamic activities, said the daily.

It added that the statements by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas of non-involvement pointed to a lack of motive on their part to commit such a heinous act.

West's Bias in Wake of Oklahoma Blast Criticized

LD2404112195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the arrest of the perpetrators of the bomb explosion last Wednesday [19 April] in Oklahoma, it has become clear that the explosion was a domestic matter and that groups organized within the United States were to blame.

In the wake of the explosion, news media in the West and especially in the United States tried to stir things up and to channel public opinion in the direction of their choice, implicitly suggesting to their audience that the explosion had a foreign dimension and that Islamic Middle Eastern resistance groups were involved.

This is why, in the days immediately after the explosion, Muslim communities in the United States and other Western countries came under severe pressure from prevailing public opinion. With the arrest of several people accused in that connection and with the revelation of their identities, it has become clear now that the Oklahoma explosion was an internal matter.

In the opinion of many analysts, the occurrence of this horrific explosion within 26 months of the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York is an unprecedented thing in the history of the United States and can be seen as one of the most important historical events in recent decades in that country. For this reason, many U.S. citizens accuse Bill Clinton's administration of being incapable of establishing order and security within U.S. society despite the enormous resources available to a superpower and its vast intelligence and security organizations. This is at a time when U.S. officials claim to have created a healthy society and to be the leaders of the world in establishing international security and in combating international terrorism.

Of course, terrorism is a criminal phenomenon in view of the fact that it targets innocent people. Bearing this in mind and in the light of the recent events in Japan and the appearance of a group known as Aum, which killed many innocent people with its chemical attacks in public places, it would seem that it has become a widespread problem. It can, therefore, be described as this century's great plague.

At any rate, it is obvious that, in the current circumstances, combating terrorism is not something that can be achieved by a single country and that it requires international effort. It is, therefore, clear that any kind of biased approach or manipulative news will only serve to encourage it. The fact of the matter is that Western media misleads international public opinion by presenting one sided and incorrect information and they play a fundamental role in spreading terrorism.

In reality, Western news media and even many Western officials have been the main elements contributing to the spread of terrorism by stirring things up and adopting an unrealistic approach to terroristic problems and events, especially during the past two decades. As we have seen, they have constantly allowed the real terrorists to escape appropriate punishment by accusing Islamic communities, which have themselves been the greatest targets of terrorism in the current century.

In any case, the coming to light of the true facts about the recent bomb explosion in Oklahoma and the exoneration of Muslims has demonstrated the destructive role played by Western news media in driving the international community toward a crisis and has put under question the already limited credibility of so-called reliable Western media; this is something that will gradually be understood by Western public opinion, which will lead it to accuse terrorist-nurturing governments as the true cause of violence and wide-scale massacres.

Qom Theologians Hail President's Anti-U.S. Remarks

NC2104125295 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Apr 95 p 1

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Theological Lecturers Association of the Qom seminary issued a statement expressing their support for the statements of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, against the inimical position of the United States against Iran and declared:

O noble and great Iranian nation: As you are aware, in the course of the past two months, the U.S. Government, especially the arrogant officials who organized extensive and vast propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout the world, and with the resources of the

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Zionists (the illegitimate progeny of the powers of world arrogance) so that in their own flawed thinking they can incite public opinion in the region and in the world, they have prepared them their bellicosity, and for implementing their diabolical and unrealistic policies.

In this regard, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, "may his shadow be extended," with his reliance on Divine power and support for millions of muslims all over the world, clearly exposed the U.S. policies and prurient notions of the White House in his sermons in the auspicious months of Ramadan and his sagacious messages and remarks in the New Year.

Following the exhortations of his eminence, and the persisting adventurism of the arch-Satan, the esteemed president expertly assessed all U.S. policies regarding the Islamic revolution in the past 16 years and affirmed their irrationality.

The Theological Lecturers' Association of the Qom seminary, alongside the great and ubiquitous nation, asserts its full support of the remarks by his eminence, the great leader, and the opinion of the president. Once again, as on innumerable previous occasions, the association calls on the conspirators in the White House to review their policies with deep introspection and prudence and reminds them:

—That they should learn a lesson from their past failures and not test the tested once again. The attack on Tabas, the economic embargo, resorting to a coup d'etat, support of well-known terrorists, inciting an imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and the continued support for the aggressor, as well as the cowardly attack on a passenger plane, and scores of other similar instances are eloquent testimony to the satanic motives of U.S. officials which indicate the ineffectiveness of their erroneous policies in the history of the aftermath of the revolution's victory.

—Therefore, we categorically declare that even this time, their extensive propaganda and hasty and half-baked policies—in their approach to the great, vigilant, revolutionary Iranian nation (with its rich 1000-year old culture which has proved in the course of their history that they will not be intimidated and daunted by tyrannical pressures)—are doomed to failure.

Once again, the Islamic ummah, with its reliance on almighty God and support of the caring officials of the system, will prove the invincibility, power, and glory of the Islamic Republic of Iran to all the arrogant ones of the world.

[Signed] The Theological Lecturers' Association of the Qom seminary

Rafsanjani Returns After Visits to India, Georgia

LD2104171995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned to Tehran this afternoon after paying official visits to India and Georgia. [passage omitted]

After returning to Tehran, in an interview with our correspondent, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described his visit to India and Georgia as very positive. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This visit demonstrated what prestige and honor the Islamic revolution has bestowed upon our country. The president added: All the goals of the visit were fully implemented.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Indian people expressed warm sentiments towards the Iranian delegation just like the Iranian people. The president said: There are no difficulties in relations with those two countries.

Elaborates on Visits

LD2204093695 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Friday [21 April] said that the Islamic revolution has now stabilized its real stand in the world to the extent that no one can ignore presence of the Islamic Iran at international arena.

Elaborating on the outcome of his 5-day visit to India and Georgia, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told IRNA, upon his arrival at the airport, that the credit the Islamic revolution has gained across the world has paved the way for having access to the pre-determined targets of such visits.

The Indian dignitaries, people, university students, Shiite and Sunni ulema [community] accorded high respect to the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked that one of the important impacts of the Islamic revolution in India was Iran's political and cultural presence in that country and subsequently revival of Persian language there.

He said that although his visit has coincided with the trip to India and Georgia of American delegations with an objective to play down the visits of the Iranian delegation, Iran gained fruitful achievements out of the visits.

As for his talks in Georgia, the president said that officials of the two countries signed agreements on transportation and transfer of gas.

He stressed that Caucasia and Central Asia are of great importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Furthermore, the president said that attempts made by big powers over the past four years to halt the way to Iran's presence in the region have failed to yield any result.

He added that there are ample energy resources in Georgia of which only 10 percent is being exploited by that country.

The two sides agreed on utilization of Iran's facilities for transfer of Georgia's gas.

He added that due to historical and cultural commonalities between Iran and Georgia, the Georgian people accorded a warm and unprecedented welcome to the Iranian delegation.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani leading a delegation wound up his two-nation tour which took him to India and Georgia.

Jannati to Saudis: Be Less Strict on Hajj

LD2104175595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1053 GMT 21 Apr 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Publicity Organization and secretary of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University on 21 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] About the hajj period, thank God this year, too, there are some dear ones from this country who are making ready for pilgrimage to the House of God. Our esteemed and dear brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri [hajj supervisor] has also spoken about it. Thank God he has been really successful thus far as the representative of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] at the hajj headquarters. This year, too, we hope that he and all our pilgrims will be more successful than before, and will be able to perform the disavowal of infidels ritual as gloriously and spectacularly as possible.

I do not know what Saudi Arabia is thinking of, and what it would gain by being so strict, other than disgrace. Last year, when they besieged the [Iranian hajj] headquarters, deployed cannons and tanks in God's holiest sanctum during the holy period, the hajj season, what did they gain by it? If a group of people were to gather at the headquarters and perform the disavowal rituals, what harm would it have done to anybody?

It is, of course, obvious that the enemies of Islam cannot tolerate the disavowal of infidels. Obviously an infidel could not tolerate it. But, would it be really in the interests of a country, which rules in the seat of monotheism, where the pilgrims go as guests—and where they should play host to God's guests—to be so strict, behave so harshly, and show such sour faces? I do not think it advisable, even if it is the Saudi government. They must put up with the pressure from enemies of Islam; undoubtedly, there would be some pressure on them. But should one not think of God? Should one not consider one's reputation? Should one not think that all the pilgrims who come from different countries would see those cannons and tanks, the restrictions and the armed troops, and instead think about governments, powers and oppressors not liking the disavowal ritual?

In any case, we hope that this year the Saudis come to their senses and not be so strict. The rituals could be performed in such a way that both the duty of the pilgrims is fulfilled and also the ritual of Abraham's hajj is carried out, and also no one would come to any harm, except infidels.

The next occasion is the issue of the anniversary of Tabas incident in 1980 [unsuccessful U.S. landing in Tabas to rescue American hostages]. Islam teaches us that on a day when God has bestowed a blessing upon an individual or a society we should always regard that day as a special day and should not forget it. When we talk of a Day of God this is what is meant by it.

On such a day God truly favored us, from two points of view: First, because we were saved from a great evil. The American forces were ready to attack us. We know only a little about what evil plans they had, but we do not know their full details. Had they been able to succeed and to implement their plan it would have certainly given rise to many calamities for us, only God knows to what extent. Thanks be to God, we were spared this evil. This by itself requires a great deal of gratitude to God. Well, this is God's blessing, this is divine assistance.

Our people were unaware of what was going on and what plans had been hatched. I do not know whether some special people were aware of what was going on, but the majority of the people were unaware of that conspiracy which was being prepared and the invasion which was launched against the Islamic country. At a time when we were completely unaware, God showed his favor and through divine assistance crushed them. This was the first point, that we were spared this evil.

The second blessing was that the enemy was disgraced. This was no minor issue. It was a heavy blow to them. They truly lost face in the world. If there was any rationality or reason in the world; if the people of the world and especially governments were influenced by any other values apart from materialistic considerations, passions and carnal desires, they would have been awakened, they would have regarded this as a miracle, and would have admitted the truth of the Islamic revolution. America should be the first country to admit this.

They had definitely planned for all eventualities. They would not have sent a number of helicopters here, to the home of a number of revolutionary people who were defending their revolution with their lives, without sufficient preparation. They must have thought of everything. They must have prepared a number of people here in advance to help them.

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Well, all their calculations were proved wrong. They were nullified and God destroyed their plot. Should they not realize that there is a truth here, that there is a reality here? However, one cannot expect a blind eye to see. [last sentence in Arabic, then translated into Persian]

In any case, we should thank God for this day, we should pay alms and should pray and should say; O God, we are aware of this blessing which you bestowed upon us and we render thanks for this blessing.

Another issue concerns the country's satellite dishes and the fact that the time limit [for their dismantling] has now expired. I want to advise individuals who possess these dishes to act themselves and dismantle them so that there will be no need for the Law Enforcement Force to act and implement the law. The people themselves have to obey and respect the country's official law.

I also want to advise the Law Enforcement Force to act seriously and resolutely in this regard. They should be careful and choose the best way to implement the law without leading to undesirable consequences. They should not allow disregard for the law even in one single case.

Another issue on the sidelines is that you have more or less heard and seen all the hue and cry in the world about Iran's ways of fighting this manifestation of corruption. They have mainly been accusing us that we want to keep the people ignorant and we do not want them to see and hear things and find out about facts and about all the developments and progress. In sum, they have said that we are against technology and progress.

This is now a longstanding accusation, for which we provided a suitable answer by our revolution. For a while, our religious scholars used to ask us not to watch the television, listen to the radio, go to the cinema and finally send our children to schools. The enemies used to echo all these.

However, later on it became clear that what we meant was for our people to refuse to send their children to a school which would lead their children astray and distance them from the Koran, religion, and religious scholars. This did not mean that we opposed science and education. If we said that people should not go to the cinema, we meant the type of cinema and films which aroused the passions and carnal desires of young girls and boys and led to moral corruption. The same applied to what we said about radio and television.

However, later on after the revolution when these problems were removed and schools, television programs and cinema halls were made healthy, we ourselves pioneered actions in these fields. [passage omitted]

We are not therefore against technological and cultural progress. Our position regarding the satellite issue is very much the same. If satellite equipment is used in the service of science, morality, religion, piety, and all other virtues, we will be the first ones who will promote and strengthen it by importing, distributing, or even producing them. But if you, under the banner of arts, culture and progress, seek to spread corruption in families and bring moral decay to boys and girls as they sit in their own homes and before the eyes of the parents, then we will, with all our might, stand up against you and put a stop to your acts. [crowd chants] May you be successful.

Another subject is the visits by the beloved brother, the esteemed President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India and Tajikistan. That is an auspicious tour; it will bear many effects and blessings. The visits were to have taken place some time ago. Thanks be to God, he began his tour in all his wisdom and concluded it properly. The welcome which the people accorded him everywhere was quite plain to see. It is clear that if the people of the world are given their freedom they show interest in the revolution and Islam and this Islamic state. They would have shown even more interest but the pressures [on them] and the apprehension which has been instilled in them prevents the people from demonstrating their enthusiasm and love.

Anyhow, to be fair, he is doing well—in the political dimension, for establishing relations with some countries: especially with those eastern states, those states which have experienced tyranny and colonialism and for a long time have been under the feet of Western states and world-devourers... [pauses] We should increase our ties with such countries, exchange sales and purchases, agreements, deals and services and reduce our dependence on Western states as much as we can. Besides, the leaders of Iran and India and the like should come to an understanding, to discuss issues at close quarters and not merely hear about the issues regarding the Islamic revolution from radio stations and foreign propaganda organizations. They should hear them from the official responsible for the country, from the president, what is happening in the country. There are dozens of questions in their minds which can only be answered by the president himself. Others distort the truth.

The West is spreading rumors, they have to be answered. One of their policies today, and this policy has a history, is rumor-mongering. It is not difficult to spread rumors, especially today when communications have become simple.

Four people sit in Tehran on the telephone; they can fill the country with rumors very quickly. It is very simple and there are only four of them. They pick up the telephone and call their friends here and there, in this city and that city, for a few hours. They say: This has happened, this issue should be said, this issue should be publicized. And their friends start talking to their friends and family. Suddenly, after 24 hours or so, the country is filled with rumors. In other words, lies, rumors and accusations spread as fast as electricity and radio waves.

The West uses this. They accuse us of seeking nuclear technology for military purposes. They say: Iranians are a danger to other countries, to their neighbors and they

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must be stopped. Well, who should answer them? Who should talk to the highest officials of various countries to tell them about our situation and what we want to do?

They spread rumors to turn some people against us. They are being very mischievous, they are harassing us a lot. Whenever we want to make a deal, they try to get it cancelled. For example, this very same nuclear agreement with Russia. How much pressure are they putting on Russia to cancel this agreement?

At the beginning they falsely promised Russia certain things. They were very simple to believe them and they did. The Russians thought: Oh yes, they are going to come and help us economically and provide for our shortages and make our economy flourish. Later, the Russians found out that they were lying and they don't pin much hope on them any longer. Still, they are insisting that they should cancel any agreement they sign with us. They are exerting pressure.

In the various agreements, they have been successful sometimes and unsuccessful in the rest. In any case, they are trying very hard. And a political move must be made in response to this, something should be done. And one part of the work is being carried out by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Honestly, he works very hard. You saw him during his visit to Khuzestan. He went to a different town every hour, he spoke to people, he inaugurated many projects. And a lot of work is being carried out. Honestly, concerning the future and the reconstruction of the country, he is working very hard. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bhutto: Arms Acquisition for 'National Security'

LD2304185795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said Pakistan does not have aggressive designs against any country and the sole purpose of acquiring arms is to strengthen national security.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was addressing a special darbar [assembly] held to install Corps Commander Lieutenant General [first name indistinct] (Gul) as colonel commandant of the Frontier Force [FF] Regiment at the FF center in Abbottabad today.

She said the government is making all-out efforts to maintain a balance between the economic and defense needs of the country to make its defense impregnable and its economy stable.

The prime minister lauded the services of the Armed Forces and said sacrificing one's life according to Islam is our sacred duty.

As far as the government is concerned, it is time to get the Armed Forces the most modern weapons. It is now for them to utilize the available means to maintain their superiority.

Editorial Views Interest in Russian Weapons

BK2204090595 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 20 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial:"Pakistan's Interest in Procuring Russian Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's ambassador to Moscow, Tanvir Ahmad Khan, has stated that Pakistan is interested in purchasing weapons, especially aircraft, from Russia. In this connection, a final decision should be made. Russia has not made its position clear on the sale of weapons. Pakistan's Air Force considers Russian fighter planes to be the best. Pakistan was unable to revamp its defense facilities during the past 10 years. There are impediments to acquiring weapons from the United States. On Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's upcoming visit to Moscow, the ambassador believes that it will be quite significant. The visit will provide an opportunity to both two countries to discuss various aspects of cooperation. Russia and Pakistan are cooperating mutually for the establishment of peace in Tajikistan. With borders touching those of Afghanistan, both countries can play a vital role toward improving the democratic system there. Like any other country, Pakistan can seek the cooperation of any other country to fulfill its defense needs. Russia's MiG-29 is the best fighter plane in the world. It can be prepared to match F-16 aircraft. There is no possibility for any difficulty in acquiring it from Russia.

New 'Source' for Defense Supplies Lauded

BK2204123495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Seeking new avenues"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has learnt the hard way the inadvisability of dependence on a single source for critical defence supplies. Faced with sanctions under the discriminatory Pressler Amendment, which have cut off vital military equipment to this country and also withhold the already paid-for F-16s, Islamabad is now reported to be trying to make purchases of arms, particularly aircraft, in Moscow. Since the Pressler Amendment came into effect, Pakistan has had to worry about its defence preparedness while India has made significant strides, getting technical assistance from abroad for the development of its largely indigenous armaments industry. This is not the first time the US has cut off military supplies to Pakistan. During the '65 war also, the US had suspended arms supplies. That first cut-off had forced us, willy-nilly, to look for alternatives and expand indigenous defence production. That was the time when China came to our rescue. Given China's own limited capability, most of its help translated into a relatively elementary level of technology largely confined to small arms and light weapons. While sophisticated aircraft from most Western countries became unavailable, with the exception of France which sold us Mirages

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and also transferred rebuild technology, it was China that helped the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] to upgrade the MIG-19 which now forms the mainstay of its fleet. Again, it was China which at the risk of annoying the US—presently an important trading partner—provided this country with M-11 missiles. Unfortunately, successive governments in Pakistan have turned to other sources than the US for arms supplies only when they were left with no option.

It is therefore a laudable decision to try to make arms purchases in Moscow, especially since Russian arms technology is one of the best. Though Russia is yet to make a decision about forging a new defence-related cooperation with us, the bitterness that characterised the two countries relations in the past has little relevance in the present post-Cold War era. Besides, Moscow, strapped as it is for hard cash and in search of new markets, may find it an attractive opportunity to respond to. As the PM [prime minister] is scheduled to visit Russia soon, that should be a good time for her to explore possibilities in the area of defence with her hosts. Seeking multiple options abroad as well as self-reliance by building up a modern armaments industry at home—which perhaps can flourish better if thrown open to the private sector—is a strategy that can serve the long-term security interests of this country well.

Editorial Urges Bhutto To Deal With 'Indian Threats'

BK2304125995 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 23 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Narasimha Rao's Threat—Benazir Government Should Pay Attention to the Country's Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Accusing Pakistan of involvement in anti-Indian activities and "terrorism" in Kashmir, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao directed the Indian armed forces to remain ready to deal with the difficult situation. Addressing a joint conference of Indian armed forces commanders in New Delhi, the Indian prime minister said Pakistan did not respond positively to India's offer of bilateral talks to resolve all issues and is carrying out worldwide propaganda against India on Kashmir. He also accused Pakistan of "stealthily acquiring nuclear weapons."

The Indian Government has failed to control the ongoing struggle for self-determination launched by the Kashmiris in 1990. At present, 625,000 Indian forces are stationed in occupied Kashmir, the biggest concentration of troops in a particular region since World War II. What is strange is that despite such a large number of troops, India has failed to crush the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir and has now begun hurling allegations against Pakistan and threatening military steps against it. There is no basis for the charges against Pakistan of "terrorism" in occupied Kashmir. More than once, Pakistan has proposed setting up an international commission under the United Nations to investigate the allegations. India has rejected any such step, however, calling it interference in its internal affairs. More than once, Pakistan has offered to hold meaningful talks with India. India is not willing, however, nor is it ready for anything that aims to reduce the tension and stop the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Moreover, India accuses Pakistan of not holding talks and levels baseless charges of terrorism.

Talking to foreign correspondents in New Delhi on 21 April, Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said that India will not hold talks with Pakistan on any other issue during the conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]. Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari is going to New Delhi to attend the SAARC conference on 2 May. It was reported that he would hold high-level talks with India on bilateral issues, including the Kashmir dispute. The Indian minister's statement has exposed India's real intentions behind the "talks." It only wants to stage a farce of talks to malign Pakistan. It was also evident during the previous rounds of talks with India that it was not sincere.

India is also trying to conduct a farce of elections in occupied Kashmir. At a news conference in New Delhi on 21 April, the Indian home minister said his government is ready to grant pre-1953 constitutional status to occupied Kashmir, which means restoring Kashmir's "autonomy." We consider it our duty to say that the farce of elections in occupied Kashmir will never be accepted by Pakistan because the people of Kashmir themselves will not accept it, nor will they take part. If India wants to do this to pass the time, it can do so.

India's war preparations, missile tests, and deployment of Prithvi missiles along Pakistan's borders have created a dangerous situation in this region. Pakistan's security is in great danger, but the Benazir Government is oblivious to this danger and is engaged in internal political confrontation, acts of vengeance against political opponents, and making arbitrary decisions. The situation in Karachi is not worth mentioning. The situation in the city has not improved despite the deployment of Rangers, the granting of wide powers to police and Rangers, and the taking of extremely stern steps. The government rejected the opposition's offer of cooperation, and the all-parties conference aimed at improving the situation could not be held.

This situation is causing great anxiety and disquiet in the country's patriotic circles. Instead of bringing the political confrontation to an end, the government is pursuing a policy of intimidating opposition members by initiating court cases against them. The rulings of the National Assembly speaker and the Senate chairman have not been implemented. The situation, in view of the Indian prime minister's threat and India's war preparations, is greatly aggravating the dangers to the country's security and defense. In the name of the country's security and national interests, we appeal to the president and prime minister to change the existing situation,

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end the political confrontation, and secure the opposition's cooperation to promote the country's unity and integrity and thereby effectively deal with the Indian threats.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Reportedly To Withdraw From Peace Talks

BK2104052295 (Internet) CIRCLE Newsletter in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 95

[Article from the "World Tamil Coordinating Committee Voice News in Translation" dated 19 April—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tamil Eelam National leader Prabhakaran made a statement to the effect that, the Liberation Tigers [of Tamil Eelam, LTTE] were abandoning peace talks, and the truce agreement. Leader Prabhakaran in his reply yesterday, to President Chandrika's letter of the 12th instant, made the LTTE stand very clear, and quote, "We are withdrawing from peace negotiations and from the cessation of hostilities agreement. You have failed to fulfill any of our request within, the 19th dead line we laid down, and, therefore from this date onwards, as indicated earlier, we are withdrawing from peace talks, and the cease fire agreement, a painful decision we have taken. You have not given us any other choice than for us to resort to this decision. Within the past six months, through our exchange of ideas, and views, we have amply illustrated the true situation. As a result, the only constructive decision we got from you was an assurance to lift the economic embargo. But it's practical implementation had much to be desired. Furthermore, there was a deliberate attempt to undermine our deadline by dilly-dallying with the implementation process. On the issues of the Poonaryn route opening, removal of restrictions to fishing, and the free movement of armed LTTE cadres in the east, the government has been evading these issues and using delay tactics. We do not see signs of your government showing any sincere and serious thought in bringing about true peace and normalcy. Instead you have shown preferential treatment for the armed forces, and used this truce to your great advantage, and built up an even stronger and well equipped armed forces." end quote. Today in Trincomalee, during the early hours, two Sri Lanka navy gunboats were destroyed. Twelve seamen are reported killed, and twenty-one were seriously injured. The two gunboats, SOORAYA, and RANISURU, both made in China were the Sri Lanka navy gunboats, that were the targets of the attack, and were completely destroyed. The attack and destruction of these gunboats within the Trincomalee harbor, which is a major Sri Lanka navy base, came as a rude shock to the defense forces. Defense circles blame the LTTE for the attacks, but there is no official statement from the LTTE on these attacks. Associated Press of India said that, according to a senior navy brass, the gunboats were destroyed by submerged sea-mines. This incident occurred within hours of the armed forces put on maximum alert, Ap news said. Sri Lanka's reaction will depend on whether this was an isolated incident, or whether LTTE will conduct more attacks, a senior defense official informed. Nevertheless, armed forces are put on maximum alert, he said. Apart from these, following this incident, President Chandrika had high powered discussions, and the matter was also taken up at a cabinet meeting, where serious investigations are on going. In the mean time, Sri Lanka government has reintroduced restrictions on fishing and banned 19 more items. LTTE informed that these restrictions nor ban were never lifted in practice. And that is the end of this news. Deny me freedom deny me life.

[Signed] "Tamil Eelam Nation Tamilar Mission"

Government Decides To Reinstate Embargo

BK2004120595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has taken some new decisions after the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] launched an offensive in which two naval boats were blasted in Trincomalee. The embargo on the transport of 19 items to the North will be reintroduced forthwith. They include arms, ammunition, explosives, remote control devices, helmets, binoculars, telescopes, compasses, material similar to that worn by security forces, iron and iron rods, oxygen, and welding equipment, barbed wire, wire cutters, inflammable materials except kerosene, camphor, urea fertilizer, penlight batteries, lead and lead items, petrol and diesel, electronic and electrical equipment. The relaxation on restrictions on fishing granted by a gazette notification has been cancelled with immediate effect.

The Presidential Secretariat states in a communique that the government received a response from the LTTE to the letter sent by the government. The LTTE had intimated that they had decided to discontinue the cessation of hostilities. However, the LTTE had acted contrary to the stipulation of the agreement. It stipulated that notice of 72 hours by either party to discontinue the agreement. [sentence as heard] Not only was the agreement discontinued without prior notice, but hostile action followed within hours which will cause damage to life and property of the state.

However, the government consider this incident to be only a temporary setback of one stage of the peace process. It is not a defeat of the peace process undertaken by the government. All the people of Sri Lanka desire peace very positively. They have unequivocally pledged their confidence in the policy of the government to bring about a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict including the war. The Tamil people, as well as the Sinhalese and Muslims, have expressed their unshaken faith in the government's policy and its commitment to achieve peace. The decision of the LTTE to terminate the cessation of hostilities is in total disregard of the stated

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aspirations of all Sri Lankans. All those who act against the people would no doubt be considered enemies of the people. The security forces have now been placed on maximum alert. The government will do its utmost to forestall any attempt to provoke the commencement of one more disastrous war. The government has appealed to all sections of the community to be calm and not to be misled by false propaganda.

The bodies of 11 sailors killed in the suicide squad attack on the Surya and the Vanasuru were recovered by naval divers yesterday. Naval divers also recovered the bodies of two men and two women Sea Tigers who blew up the naval gunboat in the Trincomalee harbor early yesterday.

The leader of the opposition, Ranil Wickremasinghe, says that he learnt from the media that the agreement between the government and the LTTE for the cessation of hostilities has broken down. It is a matter of grave national concern. In this hour of crisis, every citizen should act with a sense of responsibility and restraint for the preservation of national unity. This is not a communal issue. The policy of the UNP [United National Party] has been to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. He has called upon all citizens to assist the police and the armed forces to carry out their duties. The UNP has never by word or deed sought to place any obstacles on the path of the government in their peace efforts.

Political analysts say that the violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement by the LTTE and quitting the peace talks would be detrimental to their image locally as well as internationally. They have pointed out that the government was making an earnest and dedicated effort to bring the peace process to a satisfactory conclusion. The LTTE was determined to take another course of action which was certain to bring them into disrepute. The only outcome of such an action could be a disastrous war. The LTTE action is bound to be a setback and a discouragement for the peace loving citizens in the North, as well as the South. Analysts further say that they appreciate the government's dedication to the peace process even after the Trincomalee incident and they have stressed the need for responsible and considered action as all Sri Lankans desire for hope and peace.

Rebels Attack Army Camp; President Cancels Trip

BK2204091595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 22 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas decimated an army camp Saturday [22 April] despite international pressure to cease fire, killing at least 56 in Sri Lanka's latest ethnic bloodletting, officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed at least 20 soldiers and lost an estimated 14 of their own men during the battle, military sources said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga responded to the deteriorating situation by cancelling her planned departure to France Sunday to attend a meeting of Sri Lanka's aid donors. New dates were not immediately announced.

The upsurge in fighting came as the European Union (EU) urged the Tigers not to escalate the war and Washington strongly criticised the Tigers for breaking a truce agreed to in January.

Military sources said a large group of LTTE cadres were taking part in the attack using rockets, mortars and small arms. Airforce continued pounding LTTE positions in the area despite initial setbacks due to bad weather.

"So far we have lost 20 killed and another 20 to 25 wounded. One soldier is missing in action. We also have confirmation that 14 Tigers were killed," a military official said.

The defence ministry described the fighting as a "major offensive" by the LTTE and said it was still awaiting details. The assault came despite Kumaratunga placing troops on maximum alert with shoot-to-kill orders.

Military sources said reinforcements were fighting their way to the Kaddamuruvi Kulam camp which was burnt down by the rebels after overrunning it in the initial fighting which lasted nine hours.

Soldiers who had "tactically" withdrawn to the jungle were regrouping amid resistance from the guerrillas who had withdrawn their main attack force leaving behind a smaller group of fighters, the sources said.

The battle came shortly after the rebels killed four policemen in the neighbouring Trincomalee district and wounded another three Special Task Force commandos in the adjoining Ampara district.

Fighting since the LTTE unilaterally pulled out of a truce on Wednesday has now left 56 dead, including 36 security personnel and 20 rebel cadres.

The LTTE pulled out of the three-month-old truce by sinking two gunboats berthed at the Trincomalee port on Wednesday but President Chandrika Kumaratunga said it was only a temporary setback to her peace process.

The guerrillas also pulled out of peace talks initiated by her after coming to power in August promising to end the protracted separatist campaign which has claimed over 30,000 lives in the past 23 years.

But Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, at a public rally in the island's south Friday vowed to resolve the ethnic conflict despite the latest fighting.

The government would achieve peace "with or without" the participation of the LTTE, the state-run Daily News quoted Kumaratunga as telling at a public rally in the southern town of Matara, the heartland of the majority Sinhalese.

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The Tigers for their part have been accusing the military of shelling civilian targets in the northern Jaffna peninsula where they maintain a defacto separate state.

The government has also withdrawn concessions granted to LTTE-held regions following the collapse of the truce and reimposed a complete ban on fishing to prevent Tigers taking the cover of fishermen.

[Hong Kong AFP at 0902 GMT quotes "chief military spokesman, Brigadier Nihal Jayakody" as saying: "We have re-established the camp. The Tigers have fled the area after the attack."]

Rebels Call For New Initiative To End Violence

BK2404081995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Report by Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels on Monday [24 April] sought to deflect mounting international pressure on them by asking the government for a fresh initiative to end ethnic bloodshed that has claimed 30,000 lives.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) accused President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government of preparing for war while conducting six months of peace talks that they described as "spurious."

Western diplomats said the latest LTTE statement tried to stem a rising wave of criticism directed at them by foreign governments, with the United States taking the lead by blaming the LTTE for the first time.

"The LTTE is mindful of the international community's concern in sustaining the peace process in Sri Lanka... People and nations have historical memories which necessarily shape their thinking and attitudes," an LTTE statement said.

It came as Canada, the European Union (EU) and the United States condemned the LTTE for breaking the truce and going back to their separatist campaign on Wednesday. Since then, at least 67 people have been killed in fighting.

"In deciding to withdraw from the agreement on cessation of hostilities, the LTTE has not closed its mind, or its doors, towards an eventual, durable peace. At the same time, it cann@t drop its guard as long as the Sri Lankan government persists with its hidden ag@nda of a military option," the LTTE said in its three-page statement, sent here from its London office.

"Creating the necessary space for a peace rests on any new initiatives from the Sri Lankan government," it said

The LTTE complained that Kumaratunga had sent "personal emissaries who have neither political authority nor government status" for four rounds of talks with them. The government team was led by Kumaratunga's top aide, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi.

The guerrillas also blamed the government for not presenting a political package which the government had said was ready to be discussed with the Tigers before going public on it.

The Tiger remarks on the proposed "political package" came a day after retired airforce chief Harry Gunatillake urged the government to go public on the political solution in a bid to consolidate the international sympathy.

"The President has made concessions (to minority Tamils) at great political risk. So you might as well go all the way and announce the political package and let it be known to the world."

The (majority) Sinhala people and the military are not enamoured by what is going on. But we must have the world opinion on our side if we are going to have full scale war," Gunatillake said.

President Kumaratunga has announced at a public meeting that she was committed to achieving peace through political means—but at the same time the military was prepared to take on the Tigers.

The military responded to the wave of LTTE strikes by moving its main operational headquarters out of the capital, Colombo, to the northcentral region of Anuradhapura, which is closer to the battle zone.

However, military analysts say the 100,000-member security forces lack the right equipment to carry out a major offensive against the LTTE, which runs a de-facto state in the north.

Police backed the military by conducting mass arrests of suspects in Colombo for a second straight day Monday as part of a crackdown against the LTTE, officials said.

Over 1,500 men and women, virtually all from the minority Tamil community, were rounded up to check for any links with the LTTE, a defence official said. About two dozen were detained.

"These security operations became inevitable in the face of reliable information which warranted police action to ensure the security of Colombo," the police said in a statement.

Rebels Blame 'Downtrodden' for Oklahoma Bombing

BK2404105295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers rebels, who have earned a reputation as one of the deadliest guerrilla groups in the world, have said that the Oklahoma bombing was a warning against supressing the weak.

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Velupillai Prabhakaran, the elusive leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a condolence message to the US ambassador here, said acts such as the Oklahoma bombing were the work of the "downtrodden."

"In this hour of sorrow we hope and pray that this unfortunate catastrophe serves as an abject lesson and a painful reminder that no country however powerful or mighty should ride rough-shod over nations or people weaker or smaller.

"It is when people are downtrodden and have no hope of redress that they are forced to resort to such violent means through remorse, frustration and despair," Prabhakaran said in his message released to reporters here Monday.

It followed a strong US condemnation of the LTTE for breaking a truce to which they had agreed in January and resuming their separatist campaign in which over 30,000 people have already died in the past 23 years.

"The [word indistinct] of Tigers is Tamil Eelam," the LTTE statement said referring to their struggle for an independent homeland for the island's two million Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions.

The LTTE has been accused of carrying out dozens of bomb attacks, including some which have claimed more than 100 lives, in the past nine years. The rebels are also known to deploy commited suicide bombers against their targets. [passage omitted]

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